



Submitted Date: 9/24/2010 5:14:32 PM

Easygrants ID: 412

Funding Opportunity: Category Two	Applicant Organization: Sequoia Riverlands Trust
Task: Submit Application Non-EO	Applicant Name: Ms. Sopac Mullholland



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Task: Submit Application Non-EO	Applicant Name: Ms. Sopac Mullholland

PROJECT CONTACT INFORMATION	
Name	Ms. Sopac Mullholland,
Title	
Organization	Sequoia Riverlands Trust
Primary Address	427 South Garden Street, , , Visalia, CA, 93277
Primary Phone/Fax	559-738-0211 Ext. 101
Primary Email	soapy@sequoiariverlands.org

Name	Ms. Sopac Mullholland,
Title	
Organization	Sequoia Riverlands Trust
Primary Address	427 South Garden Street, , , Visalia, CA, 93277
Primary Phone/Fax	559-738-0211 Ext. 101
Primary Email	soapy@sequoiariverlands.org



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PROJECT INFORMATION	
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Project Title	Pre-acquisition Work on Four Strategic Land Conservation Projects
Brief Description	The purpose of the project is to conserve three large ranches and one smaller, but strategically located property, to improve climate change resilience in the southern Sierra Nevada foothills. The properties, among the top priorities of the Southern Sierra Partnership, & on which the SSP has been working for at least two years, need a well-placed investment - an appraisal or Conceptual Area Protection Plan or biological evaluation or focused attention on negotiations & partnership development to move the project toward conserved status.
Total Requested Amount	198,500.00
Other Fund Proposed	118,500.00
Total Project Cost	317,000.00
Project Category	Pre-Project Due Diligence
Project Area/Size	N/A
Project Area Type	Not Applicable
Have you submitted to SNC this fiscal year?	No
Is this application related to other SNC funding?	No

Project Results

Appraisal

Preliminary title report

Biological/wildlife/other survey(s)



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Environmental site assessment (Phase I/II)
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Project Purpose	Project Purpose Percent
Climate Change/Carbon Sequestration	
Habitat	

County
Kern
Tulare

Sub Region
South



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PROJECT OTHER CONTACTS INFORMATION

Other Grant Project Contacts

Name: Ms. Sopac McCarthy Mulholland,
Project Role: Authorized Representative
Phone: 5597380211
Phone Ext:
E-mail: soapy@sequoiariverlands.org

Name: Ms. Hilary Dustin,
Project Role: Day-to-Day Responsibility
Phone: 5597380211
Phone Ext: 106
E-mail: hilary@sequoiariverlands.org

Name: Mr. John Nilon,
Project Role: County Administration
Phone: 0000000
Phone Ext:
E-mail: caomailbox@co.kern.ca.us

Name: Mr. Jean Rousseau,
Project Role: County Administration
Phone: 0000000
Phone Ext:
E-mail: phogue@co.tulare.ca.us

Name: District Kaweah Delta Water Conservation,
Project Role: Water Agency 1 Contact
Phone: 5597475601
Phone Ext:
E-mail: MLARSEN@KDWCD.com



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PROJECT LOCATION INFORMATION

Project Location

Address: Kaweah, Deer Creek, White River & Kern/Poso properties, , ,
Three Rivers, CA, 93271 United States
Water Agency: Kaweah Delta Water Conservation District
Latitude: 36.4367290252791
Longitude: 118.87990191586
Congressional District: na
Senate: na
Assembly: na
Within City Limits: No
City Name:



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PROJECT BUDGET INFORMATION

Direct

Description	Num of Units	Per Unit Cost	Total
Conservation Director	430	37.73	16,223.90
Conservation Project Mgr.	220	25.56	5,623.20
Finance & Acctg. Director	90	33.54	3,018.60
Benefits at 15% of salaries above	1	3,730.00	3,730.00
Meetings with landowners	1560	.50	780.00
Meetings with agencies & partners	4000	.50	2,000.00
Field work for project design & due diligence	1530	.50	765.00
SRT Executive Director	200	95.18	19,036.00
Land Conservation Consultant	120	150.00	18,000.00
Attorney	90	150.00	13,500.00

SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY

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Easygrants ID: 412

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Biologist	280	65.00	18,200.00
Other experts	1	10,000.00	10,000.00
Environmental Site Assessment Reports	1	22,500.00	22,500.00
Mapping & GIS support	1	11,150.00	11,150.00
Printing	1	1,000.00	1,000.00
Supplies related to digital cameras & equipment	1	150.00	150.00
Appraisals & Valuation	1	34,500.00	34,500.00
Preliminary Title Reports	1	1,500.00	1,500.00

Total Direct	181,676.70
Direct Detail	

Administrative

Description	Num of Units	Per Unit Cost	Total
Conservation Director	120	37.73	4,527.60



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Conservation Project Mgr.	80	25.56	2,044.80
Finance & Acctg. Director	240	33.54	8,049.60
Benefits at 15% of salaries above	1	2,194.00	2,194.00

Total Administrative	16,816.00
Administrative Detail	Director, project manager, finance & accounting director, & benefits.

Budget Grant Total: 198,492.70



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PROJECT OTHER SUPPORT INFORMATION

Other Support for the Sierra Nevada

Type :	Project Funds Other
Estimated Amount:	7,546.00
Estimated Volunteer Hours:	0
Source:	Conservation Director
Source Type:	Other
Status:	Intend to Apply
Description:	200 hrs. at \$37.73. From current or previous grants to SRT from The Resources Legacy Fund Foundation & The Nature Conservancy. No status listed.
Type :	Project Funds Other
Estimated Amount:	1,789.00
Estimated Volunteer Hours:	0
Source:	Conservation Project Mgr.
Source Type:	Other
Status:	Intend to Apply
Description:	70 hrs. at \$25.56. Current or previous grants to SRT from The Resources Legacy Fund Foundation & The Nature Conservancy. No status listed.
Type :	Project Funds Other
Estimated Amount:	2,012.00
Estimated Volunteer Hours:	0
Source:	Finance & Acctg. Director
Source Type:	Other
Status:	Intend to Apply
Description:	60 hrs. at \$33.54. Current or previous grants to SRT from The Resources Legacy Fund Foundation & The Nature Conservancy. No status listed.



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Type :	Project Funds Other
Estimated Amount:	1,702.00
Estimated Volunteer Hours:	0
Source:	Benefits at 15% of salaries above
Source Type:	Other
Status:	Intend to Apply
Description:	No status listed.
Type :	Project Funds Other
Estimated Amount:	435.00
Estimated Volunteer Hours:	0
Source:	Travel
Source Type:	Other
Status:	Intend to Apply
Description:	870 miles at \$0.50. From current or previous grants to SRT from The Resources Legacy Fund Foundation & The Nature Conservancy. No status listed.
Type :	Project Funds Other
Estimated Amount:	6,663.00
Estimated Volunteer Hours:	0
Source:	Executive Director
Source Type:	Other
Status:	Intend to Apply
Description:	70 hrs. at \$95.18. Status not listed. From current or previous grants to SRT from The Resources Legacy Fund Foundation & The Nature Conservancy.
Type :	Project Funds Other
Estimated Amount:	4,550.00
Estimated Volunteer Hours:	0
Source:	Biologist
Source Type:	Other
Status:	Intend to Apply



Submitted Date: 9/24/2010 5:14:32 PM

Easygrants ID: 412

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Description: 70 hrs. at \$65. Status not listed. From current or previous grants to SRT from The Resources Legacy Fund Foundation & The Nature Conservancy.	
Type :	Major In-Kind Contr
Estimated Amount:	6,500.00
Estimated Volunteer Hours:	100
Source:	SRT Board President in-kind contribution, SRT
Source Type:	Other
Status:	Intend to Apply
Description:	100 hrs. at \$65. Status not listed.
Type :	Major In-Kind Contr
Estimated Amount:	13,000.00
Estimated Volunteer Hours:	0
Source:	The Nature Conservancy (TNC) Staff
Source Type:	Other
Status:	Intend to Apply
Description:	260 hrs. at \$50. Status not listed. In-kind contributions from TNC, assistance with planning & realty transactions.
Type :	Major In-Kind Contr
Estimated Amount:	5,000.00
Estimated Volunteer Hours:	0
Source:	Commission of draft Deer Creek CAPP
Source Type:	Other
Status:	Intend to Apply
Description:	Status not listed. In-kind contributions from TNC, assistance with planning & realty transactions.
Type :	Project Funds Other
Estimated Amount:	5,200.00
Estimated Volunteer Hours:	0



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Easygrants ID: 412

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Source:	Biological records search
Source Type:	Other
Status:	Intend to Apply
Description:	Status not listed. From conservation buyer.
Type :	Major In-Kind Contr
Estimated Amount:	5,700.00
Estimated Volunteer Hours:	0
Source:	Investigation of potential funding mechanism
Source Type:	Other
Status:	Intend to Apply
Description:	60 hrs. at \$95. Status not listed. In=kind services, investigation of MBHCP as potential funding mechanism for acquiring CE or fee title on lower part of the ranch.
Type :	Project Funds Other
Estimated Amount:	5,660.00
Estimated Volunteer Hours:	0
Source:	Conservation Director
Source Type:	Other
Status:	Intend to Apply
Description:	150 hrs. at \$37.73. Status not listed.
Type :	Project Funds Other
Estimated Amount:	2,173.00
Estimated Volunteer Hours:	0
Source:	Conservation Project Mgr.
Source Type:	Other
Status:	Intend to Apply
Description:	85 hrs. at \$25.56. Status not listed.
Type :	Project Funds Other
Estimated Amount:	3,689.00
Estimated Volunteer Hours:	0



Submitted Date: 9/24/2010 5:14:32 PM

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Source:	Finance & Acctg. Director
Source Type:	Other
Status:	Intend to Apply
Description:	110 hrs. at \$33.54. Status not listed.
Type :	Project Funds Other
Estimated Amount:	1,728.00
Estimated Volunteer Hours:	0
Source:	Benefits at 15% of salaries above
Source Type:	Other
Status:	Intend to Apply
Description:	Status not listed.
Type :	Project Funds Other
Estimated Amount:	510.00
Estimated Volunteer Hours:	0
Source:	Travel
Source Type:	Other
Status:	Intend to Apply
Description:	1,020 miles at \$0.50. Status not listed.
Type :	Project Funds Other
Estimated Amount:	5,711.00
Estimated Volunteer Hours:	0
Source:	Executive Director
Source Type:	Other
Status:	Intend to Apply
Description:	60 hrs. at \$95.18. Status not listed.
Type :	Project Funds Other
Estimated Amount:	22,500.00
Estimated Volunteer Hours:	0
Source:	Land Conservation Consultant
Source Type:	Other

SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY

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Status:	Intend to Apply
Description:	150 hrs. at \$150. Status not listed. Consultant to assist with navigation DFG requirements and processes.
Type :	Project Funds Other
Estimated Amount:	2,250.00
Estimated Volunteer Hours:	0
Source:	Attorney - Investigation of MBHCP as potential . . .
Source Type:	Other
Status:	Intend to Apply
Description:	15 hrs. at \$150. Status not listed.
Type :	Project Funds Other
Estimated Amount:	4,225.00
Estimated Volunteer Hours:	1
Source:	Biologist
Source Type:	Other
Status:	Received
Description:	65 hrs. at \$65. Status is "Completed September 2010."
Type :	Project Funds Other
Estimated Amount:	10,000.00
Estimated Volunteer Hours:	0
Source:	Appraisals
Source Type:	Other
Status:	Received
Description:	Status is "Completed September 2010."

Estimated Total Amount of Resources Leveraged	118,543.00
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PROJECT REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS

Regulatory Requirements

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PROJECT TIMELINE INFORMATION

Project Timeline

Milestone/Activity:	Execute grant agreement
Description:	
Expected Date:	06/30/2011
Deliverable:	True

Milestone/Activity:	Submit 6 month progress report
Description:	
Expected Date:	11/30/2011
Deliverable:	True

Milestone/Activity:	Submit annual report
Description:	
Expected Date:	05/31/2012
Deliverable:	True

Milestone/Activity:	Submit eighteen month report
Description:	
Expected Date:	11/30/2012
Deliverable:	True

Milestone/Activity:	Submit final report and payment request
Description:	
Expected Date:	05/31/2013
Deliverable:	True



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PROJECT PEER REVIEWER INFORMATION

Reviewers



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UPLOADS

The following pages contain the following uploads provided by the applicant:

Upload Name
Completed Checklist
Table of Contents
Application Form
Authorization to Apply or Resolution
Articles of Incorporation (Non-Profit Organization)
Bylaws (Non-Profit Organizations Only)
IRS Tax Letter (Non-Profit Organizations Only)
Project Summary
Evaluation Criteria Narrative
Detailed Budget Form



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Performance Measures
Project Location Map
Photos of the Project Site
CEQA Documentation
Letters of Support
Letters of Support
Letters of Support
Letters of Support

To preserve the integrity of the uploaded document, headers, footers and page numbers have not been added by the system.

Application Checklist for Category Two Grants

Project Name: Pre-acquisition Work for Four Strategic Land Conservation Prospects in the South Sierra Foothills
Applicant: Sequoia Riverlands Trust

Please mark each box: check if item is included in the application; mark "N/A" if not applicable to the project. Please consult with SNC staff prior to submission if you have any questions about the applicability to your project of any items on the checklist. All applications must include a CD including an electronic file of each checklist item, if applicable. The naming convention for each electronic file is listed after each item on the checklist. (Electronic File Name = EFN: "naming convention". file extension choices)

1. ☒ Completed Checklist (EFN: Checklist.doc, .docx, .rtf, or .pdf)
2. ☒ Table of Contents (EFN: TOC.doc, .docx, .rtf, or .pdf)
3. ☒ Application Form (EFN: AppForm.doc, .docx, .rtf, or .pdf)
4. ☒ Authorization to Apply or Resolution (EFN: AuthRes.doc, .docx, .rtf, or .pdf)
- 5a. ☒ Articles of Incorporation [501(c)(3)s only] (EFN: ArtInc.doc, .docx, .rtf, or .pdf)
- 5b. ☒ Bylaws [501(c)(3)s only] (EFN: Bylaws.doc, .docx, .rtf, or .pdf)
- 5c. ☒ Tax Exempt Status letter from the Internal Revenue Service [501(c)(3)s only] (EFN: ProjSum.doc, .docx, .rtf, or .pdf)
6. ☒ Project Summary (Two Page Maximum) (EFN: ProjSum.doc, .docx, .rtf, or .pdf)
7. ☒ Evaluation Criteria Narrative (EFN: EvalCrit.doc, .docx, .rtf, .pdf)
8. ☒ Detailed Budget Form (EFN: Budget.xls, .xlsx)
9. ☒ Performance Measures (EFN: Perform.doc, .docx, .rtf, or .pdf)
10. ☒ Environmental Setting and Impacts (EFN: EnvSetImp.docx, .docx, .rtf, .pdf)
11. ☒ Project Location Map (EFN: LocMap.pdf) - *two maps from Southern Sierra Partnership conservation planning*
- N/A 12. ☐ Parcel Map showing County Assessor's Parcel Number(s) (EFN: ParcelMap.pdf)
- N/A 13. ☐ Topographic Map (EFN: Topo.pdf)
14. ☒ Photos of the Project Site (10 maximum) (ENF: Photo.jpg, .gif)
- N/A 15. ☐ Land Tenure (EFN: Tenure.pdf)
- N/A 16. ☐ Leases or Agreements (EFN: LeaseAgmmt.pdf)
17. ☒ California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (EFN: CEQA.pdf)
- N/A 18. ☐ National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (If applicable) (EFN: NEPA.pdf)
- N/A 19. ☐ Regulatory Requirements / Permits (ENF: RegPermit.pdf)
20. ☒ Demonstrations of Support (EFN: DOS.pdf)
- N/A 21. ☐ Executive Officer Authorization Request Form (only for time-sensitive projects up to \$50,000) (EFN: EOrequest.pdf)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Category Two Grant

Project Name: Pre-acquisition Work for Four Strategic Land Conservation
Prospects in the South Sierra Foothills

Applicant: Sequoia Riverlands Trust

1. Completed Checklist
2. Table of Contents
3. Application Form
4. Authorization to Apply or Resolution
- 5a. Articles of Incorporation
- 5b. Bylaws
- 5c. Tax Exempt Status Letter from the Internal Revenue Service
6. Project Summary
7. Evaluation Criteria Narrative
8. Detailed Budget Form
9. Performance Measures
10. Environmental Setting and Impacts
11. Project Location Map
12. Parcel Map showing County Assessor's Parcel Numbers(s) (Not Applicable)
13. Topographic Map (Not Applicable)
14. Photos of the Project Site
15. Land Tenure (Not Applicable)
16. Leases or Agreements (Not Applicable)
17. California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)
18. National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (Not Applicable)
19. Regulatory Requirements / Permits (Not Applicable)
20. Demonstrations of Support
21. Executive Officer Authorization Request Form (Not Applicable)

Note: You can only save data in this form if you are using Adobe Acrobat Pro. If you are not using Adobe Acrobat Pro, click [here](#) for a Microsoft Word version of this form, which you can fill out and save.

**SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY
PROPOSITION 84 GRANT APPLICATION FORM
CATEGORY TWO GRANT**

Rev. January 2010

Complete all applicable items on both pages of form.

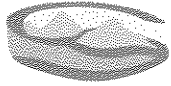
1. PROJECT NAME <i>Pre-acquisition Work on Four Strategic Land Conservation Projects</i>		2. REFERENCE NUMBER <i>12</i>	
3. APPLICANT (Agency name, address, and zip code) <i>Sequoia Riverlands Trust 447 S. Garden St. Visalia, CA 93277</i>		4. APPLICANT TYPE: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-profit Organization <input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Tribal Organization	
5. APPLICANT'S AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE Name and title – type or print Phone Email Address <input type="checkbox"/> Mr. <i>559/738-0211</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ms. <i>Sopac McCarthy Mulholland</i> <i>soapy@sequoiariverlands.org</i>			
6. PERSON WITH DAY-TO-DAY RESPONSIBILITY FOR ADMINISTRATION OF THE GRANT (If different from Authorized Representative) Name and title – type or print Phone Email Address <input type="checkbox"/> Mr. <i>559/738-0211, Ext 102</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ms. <i>Hilary Dustin</i> <i>hilary@sequoiariverlands.org</i>			
7. PERSON WITH FISCAL MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITY FOR GRANT CONTRACT/INVOICING (If different from Authorized Representative or Day to Day Administrator) Name and title – type or print Phone Email Address <input type="checkbox"/> Mr. <i>559/738-0211, Ext 106</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ms. <i>Debbie Bratt</i> <i>debbie@sequoiariverlands.org</i>			
8. FUNDING INFORMATION			
SNC Grant Request	<i>\$ 198,500</i>		
(Up to \$250,000)			
Other Funds	<i>\$ 118,500</i>		
Total Project Cost	<i>\$ 317,000</i>		
9. PROJECT CATEGORY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pre-Project Planning		9a. DELIVERABLES (Select <u>one</u> primary deliverable) <input type="checkbox"/> Study/Report <input type="checkbox"/> Data <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Appraisal <input type="checkbox"/> Plan <input type="checkbox"/> Condition Assessment <input type="checkbox"/> Model/Map <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preliminary Title Report <input type="checkbox"/> Design/Permit <input type="checkbox"/> CEQA/NEPA Compliance <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biological/Other Survey(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Site Assessment (Phase I/II)	
10. PROJECT ADDRESS/LOCATION (Include zip code) <i>4 locations in the Kaweah, Deer Creek White River & Kern River watersheds</i>			
11. Latitude and Longitude <i>Kaweah property - 118.87990191586 / 36.436729025279/ Deer Creek property - 118.06898354139 / 35.881821544972/ White River property - 118.890941025109 / 35.8530743961959 Kern/Paso Ck. property - 118.799072115136 / 35.4844718035294</i>			

12. COUNTY <i>Tulare & Kern</i>	13. CITY (Is project within city limits? If so, which one?) <i>Three Rivers, CA Hot Springs, Ducor & Bakersfield</i>
14. NEAREST PUBLIC WATER AGENCY (OR AGENCIES) CONTACT INFORMATION:	
Name: <i>Kaweah Delta Water Conservation District</i>	
Phone Number: <i>559-747-5601</i>	
Email address: <i>MLARSEN@KDWCD.com</i>	
Name: <i>Kern Water Agency</i>	
Phone Number: <i>661-634-1446</i>	
Email address:	
15. CEQA OR NEPA DOCUMENT TYPE (if applicable) <i>N/A</i>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Exemption	<input type="checkbox"/> Finding of No Significant Impact
<input type="checkbox"/> Negative Declaration	<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Impact Statement
<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Impact Report	<input type="checkbox"/> Joint CEQA/NEPA Document
16. State Clearinghouse Number <i>N/A</i>	
17. Executive Officer Authorization	
Is an EO Authorization being requested: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	

I certify that the information contained in the Application, including required attachments, is accurate.

Lopac M. Mulholland *9/13/10*
Signed (Authorized Representative) Date

Executive Director
Name and Title (print or type)
Sequoia Riverlands Trust



BOARD OF DIRECTORS RESOLUTION

APPROVING THE APPLICATION FOR CATEGORY 2 GRANT FUNDS FROM THE SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY PROPOSITION 84 GRANTS PROGRAM

Funded by the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control,
River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006

The following resolution was voted on by e-mail, and duly passed and adopted by the Sequoia Riverlands Trust Board of Directors as of September 10, 2010. The vote was as follows:

Following Roll Call Vote: Ayes 11
 No's _____
 Abstentions 1
 Absent _____

Signed and approved by:

R. Scott Spear
President, Sequoia Riverlands Trust Board of Directors

* * * * *

WHEREAS, the Legislature and Governor of the State of California have provided Funds for the program shown above; and

WHEREAS, the Sierra Nevada Conservancy has been delegated the responsibility for the administration of a portion of these funds through a local assistance grants program, establishing necessary procedures; and

WHEREAS, said procedures established by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy require a resolution certifying the approval of application(s) by the Applicant's governing board before submission of said application(s) to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy; and

WHEREAS, the Applicant, if selected, will enter into an agreement with the State of California to carry out the project; and

WHEREAS, Sequoia Riverlands Trust has determined that pre-acquisition work on land protection prospects in the southern Sierra foothills is valuable toward meeting its mission and goals, which include strategic goals developed during SRT's involvement in the Southern Sierra Partnership's conservation planning effort.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of Sequoia Riverlands Trust:

1. Approves the submittal of an application for funds for strategic pre-acquisition work on land protection prospects in the southern Sierra Nevada foothills (including such activities as landowner outreach and negotiations, assessment of conservation values, appraisals, title work, map preparation, conservation easement design, documentation of baseline conditions, environmental due diligence and coordination with project partners); and
2. Certifies that the Applicant understands the assurances and certifications requirements in the application; and
3. Certifies that the Applicant or title holder will have sufficient funds to operate and maintain the resource(s) consistent with the long-term benefits described in support of the application, or will secure the resources to do so; and
4. Certifies that the Applicant will comply with all legal requirements as determined during the application process; and
5. Appoints the Executive Director of Sequoia Riverlands Trust, or designee, as agent to conduct all negotiations, execute and submit all documents, including but not limited to: applications, agreements, payment requests and so on, which may be necessary for the completion of the aforementioned project.

END OF RESOLUTION

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS


CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL OF NAME

Pursuant to section 3903 of the Financial Code, I, DONALD R. MEYER, Commissioner of Financial Institutions of the State of California, do hereby approve the name "SEQUOIA RIVERLANDS TRUST" set forth in the attached Certificate of Amendment of Articles of Incorporation.

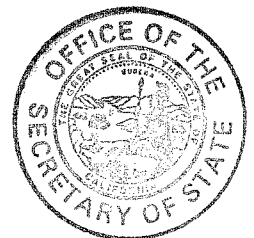
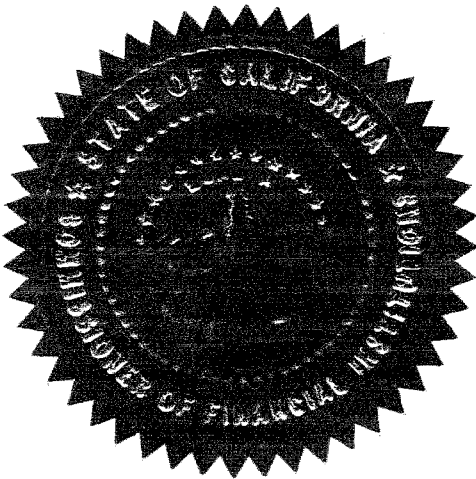
Given under my hand and official seal this 14th day of April, 2003, in the City and County of San Francisco, State of California.

DONALD R. MEYER
Commissioner of Financial Institutions

By



JAMES M. PATTEN
Staff Counsel



CERTIFICATE OF AMENDMENT OF ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION

The undersigned certify that:

1. They are the president and the secretary, respectively, of Sequoia Riverlands Trust, a California Corporation.
2. Articles Four (a) and Six of the Articles of Incorporation of this corporation, recorded on June 17, 1993, are amended to read as follows:

FOUR: (a) This corporation is organized and operated exclusively for educational and charitable purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, and meeting the requirements for exemption provided by section 214 of the Revenue and Taxation Code.

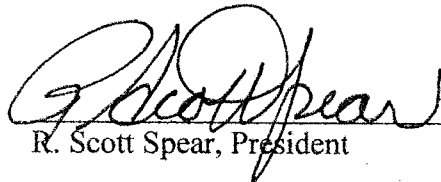
SIX: The property of this corporation is irrevocably dedicated to educational and charitable purposes meeting the requirements for exemption provided by section 214 of the Revenue and Taxation Code and no part of the net income or assets of this corporation shall inure to the benefit any director, officer or member thereof or to the benefit of any private person.

On the dissolution or winding up of the corporation, its assets remaining after payment, or provision for payment, of all debts and liabilities of this corporation, shall be distributed to a nonprofit fund, foundation, or corporation which is organized and operated exclusively for charitable and educational purposes meeting the requirements for exception provided by section 214 of the Revenue and Taxation Code and which has established its tax exempt status under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

3. The foregoing amendment and restatement of the Articles of Incorporation has been duly approved by the Board of Directors.
4. The corporation has no members.

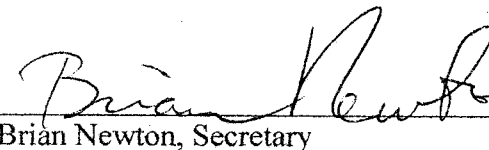
We further declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the matters set forth in this certificate are true and correct of our own knowledge.

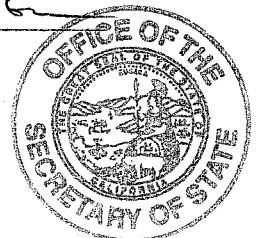
DATE: 24 April 2006


R. Scott Spear, President

ENDORSED - FILED
In the office of the Secretary of State
of the State of California

DEC 19 2006


Brian Newton, Secretary



APR 15 2003

KEVIN SHELLEY
Secretary of State

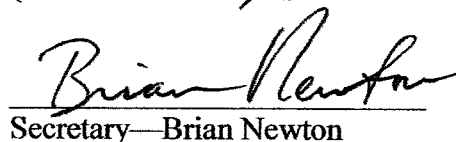
CERTIFICATE OF AMENDMENT OF ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION

The undersigned certify that:

1. They are the **president** and the **secretary**, respectively of Sierra Los Tulares Land Trust, a California corporation.
2. Article ONE of the Articles of Incorporation of this corporation is amended to read as follows:

The name of this corporation is: Sequoia Riverlands Trust
3. The foregoing amendment of Articles of Incorporation has been duly approved by the Board of Directors.
4. The foregoing amendment of Articles of Incorporation has been duly approved by the required vote of the members.

We further declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of California that the matters set forth in this certificate are true and correct of our own knowledge.

DATE: 3-21-03
President—R. Scott Spear
Secretary—Brian Newton

AGREEMENT OF MERGER

ENDORSED - FILED
in the office of the Secretary of State
of the State of California

JAN 10 2001

BILL JONES, Secretary of State

This Agreement of Merger is entered into between The Kaweah Land Trust, a California non-profit public benefit corporation (herein "Surviving Corporation"), and Four Creeks Land Trust, Inc., a California non-profit public benefit corporation and Tule Oaks Land Trust, a California non-profit public benefit corporation (both herein referred to as "Merging/ Disappearing Corporations"). The parties hereto agree as follows:

1. The parties agree to a merger. Each of the Merging/Disappearing Corporations shall be merged into the Surviving Corporation.
2. Each of the corporations party to this Agreement is a qualified IRC § 501(c)(3) public benefit corporation, incorporated in the State of California; each is a "land trust" with a similar purposes and missions, operating in adjacent geographic areas.
3. The Surviving Corporation shall be The Kaweah Land Trust. Four Creeks Land Trust, Inc. and Tule Oaks Land Trust shall be disappearing corporations.
4. The name of The Kaweah Land Trust shall be changed to "Sierra Los Tulares Land Trust", a California non-profit public benefit corporation, as soon as practical.
5. The corporate year for the surviving corporation shall be July 1st through June 30th.
6. The Surviving Corporation is a non-membership corporation. Four Creeks Land Trust, Inc. is a non-membership corporation. Tule Oaks Land Trust is a membership corporation, and as part of that corporation's approval of this merger, its members must approve conversion to a non-membership corporation. This Surviving Corporation will be a non-membership corporation operated solely by the Board of Directors.

///

7. The Articles of Incorporation for The Kaweah Land Trust shall be amended upon completion of the merger to effectuate the name change. A copy of the anticipated amendment to the Articles of Incorporation is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

8. The Surviving Corporation shall have new bylaws which are approved as part of the approval of this Merger Agreement, a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit B.

9. All assets and liabilities of the parties hereto shall be merged and owned by the Surviving Corporation.

10. Each of the Merging/Disappearing Corporations shall from time to time, as and when requested by Surviving Corporation, execute and deliver all such documents and instruments and take all such actions necessary and desirable to evidence or carry out this merger.

11. As part of this merger, each Merging/Disappearing Corporations shall provide to the Surviving Corporation an appropriate transfer of each easement or ownership interest in real property owned by the Merging/Disappearing Corporations.

12. There is a Memorandum of Understanding is attached hereto as Exhibit D is part of this Agreement.

13. The initial Board of Directors for the Surviving Corporation shall be composed as follows:

Two (2) shall be nominated by each Merging/Disappearing Corporations and two (2) shall be nominated by the Surviving Corporation and the six (6) directors so selected shall agree upon three (3) additional directors at large.

14. The effect of the merger and the effective date of the merger are as prescribed by law.

///

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed this Agreement.

DATED 01/04/01

THE KAWEAH LAND TRUST

Rick Kimball

By: RICK KIMBALL

Title: President

Mary Becker

By: MARY BECKER

Title: Secretary

DATED 1/5/01

FOUR CREEKS LAND TRUST, INC.

Michael C. Lozito

By: MICHAEL C. LOZITO

Title: President

Brian Newton

By: BRIAN NEWTON

Title: Secretary

DATED 1/5/01

TULE OAKS LAND TRUST

Terry Manning

By: TERRY MANNING

Title: President

Billie Chandler

By: BILLIE CHANDLER

Title: Secretary


**C I T I F I C A T I O N O F A P P R O V A
O F A G R E E M E N T O F M E R G E R**

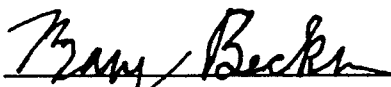
Rick Kimball and Mary Becker certify that:

1. They are President and Secretary, respectively of The Kaweah Land Trust, a California non-profit public benefit corporation.
2. The principal terms of the Agreement of Merger in the form attached were duly approved by the required vote of the Board of Directors of the Corporation, the Corporation being a non-membership Corporation.
3. The total number of Directors entitled to vote on the merger is eight (8). Eight (8) Directors voted in favor and zero (0) voted opposed.
4. No other approvals are required.
5. The Attorney General of the State of California has been given notice of the merger.

We further declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the matters set forth in this certificate are true and correct of our own knowledge.

DATED 11/28/00


By: RICK KIMBALL
Title: President


By: MARY BECKER
Title: Secretary

**CERTIFICATION OF APPROVAL
OF AGREEMENT OF MERGER**

Terry R. Manning and Billie Chandler certify that:

1. They are President and Secretary, respectively of Tule Oaks Land Trust, a California non-profit public benefit corporation.
2. The principal terms of the Agreement of Merger in the form attached were duly approved by the required vote of the members of the Corporation.
3. There is only one (1) class of members and the total number of Members of the Corporation entitled to vote on the merger is ten (10). Nine (9) voted in favor and zero (0) voted against.
4. No other approvals are required.
5. The Attorney General of the State of California has been given notice of the merger.

We further declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the matters set forth in this certificate are true and correct of our own knowledge.

DATED 11/28/2000


By: TERRY R. MANNING
Title: President


By: BILLIE CHANDLER
Title: Secretary

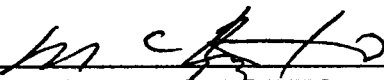
**CERTIFICATION OF APPROVAL
OF AGREEMENT OF MERGER**

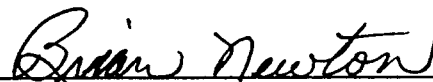
Michael C. Lozito and Brian Newton certify that:

1. They are President and Secretary, respectively of Four Creeks Land Trust, Inc. a California non-profit public benefit corporation.
2. The terms of the Agreement of Merger in the form attached were duly approved by the required vote of the members of the Corporation.
3. There is only one (1) class of members and the total number of members of the Corporation entitled to vote on the merger is sixteen (16). Twelve (12) voted in favor and zero (0) voted against.
4. No other approvals are required.
5. The Attorney General of the State of California has been given notice of the merger.

We further declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the matters set forth in this certificate are true and correct of our own knowledge.

DATED 28 Nov 00


By: MICHAEL C. LOZITO
Title: President


By: BRIAN NEWTON
Title: Secretary



1861618

ENDORSED
FILED

In the office of the Secretary of State
of the State of California

JUN 17 1993

ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION

OF

The Kaweah Land Trust

MARCH FONG EU, Secretary of State

A CALIFORNIA PUBLIC BENEFIT CORPORATION

ONE: The name of this corporation is The Kaweah Land Trust.

TWO: This corporation is a nonprofit public benefit corporation and is not organized for the private gain of any person. It is organized under the Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation Law for charitable purposes. The specific purposes for which this corporation is organized are 1.) to accept donations of farmland, open space, grazing and farmland scenic easements, riparian and natural lands habitat with the intent of protecting them in perpetuity, 2). to purchase farmlands and open spaces, grazing and ranch lands, scenic easements, riparian and natural lands habitat or rights thereto with the intent of protecting them in perpetuity, and 3). to educate the public as to the value of these lands.

THREE: The name and address in the State of California of this corporation's initial agent for service of process is Rick Kimball, 40806 Cherokee Oaks, Three Rivers, CA 93271.

FOUR: (a) This corporation is organized and operated exclusively for educational and charitable purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of these Articles, the corporation shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (1) by a corporation exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or (2) by a corporation contributions to which are deductible under Section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code.

(c) No substantial part of the activities of this corporation shall consist of carrying on propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the corporation shall not participate or intervene in any political campaign (including the publishing or distribution of statements) on behalf of, or in opposition to, any candidate for public office.

FIVE: The names and addresses of the persons appointed to act as the initial Directors of this corporation are:

Name	Address
Rick Kimball	40806 Cherokee Oaks, Three Rivers, Ca 93271.

Don Hise 43120 Kaweah Dr., Three Rivers, Ca 93271
Elizabeth Scott-Graham 44244 Kaweah River Dr. Three Rivers, Ca.93271
Gary Bornholdt 43822 Skyline Dr. Three Rivers, Ca. 93271
Trudy Schuckert 42682 Heidi, Three Rivers, Ca. 93271
Jean Repogle 42670 Heidi, Three Rivers, Ca. 93271

SIX: The property of this corporation is irrevocably dedicated to educational and charitable purposes and no part of the net income or assets of the organization shall ever inure to the benefit of any director, officer or member thereof or to the benefit of any private person.

On the dissolution or winding up of the corporation, its assets remaining after payment of, or provision for payment of, all debts and liabilities of this corporation, shall be distributed to a nonprofit fund, foundation, or corporation which is organized and operated exclusively for educational and charitable purposes and which has established its tax-exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Date: 1-13-93

Don Hise
Don Hise, Director

Jean Repogle
Jean Repogle, Director

Rick Kimball
Rick Kimball, Director

Gary Bornholdt
Gary Bornholdt, Director

Trudy Schuckert
Trudy Schuckert, Director

Elizabeth Scott-Graham
Elizabeth Scott-Graham, Director

We, the above-mentioned initial directors of this corporation, hereby declare that we are the persons who executed the foregoing Articles of Incorporation, which execution is our act and deed.

Don Hise
Don Hise, Director

Jean Repogle
Jean Repogle, Director

Rick Kimball
Rick Kimball, Director

Gary Bornholdt
Gary Bornholdt, Director

Trudy Schuckert
Trudy Schuckert, Director

Elizabeth Scott-Graham
Elizabeth Scott-Graham, Director

BYLAWS
OF
SEQUOIA RIVERLANDS TRUST

**ARTICLE I
PRINCIPAL OFFICE**

The principal office of the transaction of the business of this Corporation is located in Visalia, Tulare County, California. The Board of Directors may, from time to time, change the location of the principal office from one location to another in California.

**ARTICLE II
PURPOSES**

Section 1. Mission: Sequoia Riverlands Trust (hereinafter “SRT”) is organized, and shall be operated, exclusively for educational, scientific and charitable purposes as may qualify it for tax exempt status under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Specifically, SRT is organized as a California public and mutual benefit corporation. More specifically, the mission of SRT is to conserve the natural and agricultural legacy of the southern Sierra Nevada and San Joaquin Valley. To this end, SRT will acquire, manage and monitor lands and/or conservation easements that are dedicated to these purposes.

Section 2. Public Benefit/Charitable Purpose: The property and assets of this Corporation are irrevocably dedicated to public benefits and/or charitable purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. No part of the net earnings, properties, or assets of this Corporation, upon dissolution or otherwise, shall inure to the benefit of any private person or individual, or any Director or officer of this Corporation. On liquidation or dissolution, all properties and assets remaining after payment, or provision of payments of all debts and liabilities of this Corporation shall be distributed to a government entity or to a non-profit fund, foundation, or corporation which is organized and operated exclusively for charitable purposes and which has established its exempt status under Internal Revenue Code 501(c)(3). The provisions of Corporation Code 5260 as to compliance with Internal Revenue Code Sections shall be followed.

**ARTICLE III
MEMBERSHIP**

Section 1. Non-Membership: This is a non-membership corporation within the meaning

of California Corporations Code 5310. It is operated exclusively by the Board of Directors of the Corporation. All rights, duties, and obligations of members of a non-profit corporation shall be carried on by the Directors. Any reference in these Bylaws to members shall in fact be a reference to the Directors.

Section 2. Non-Voting Memberships: As allowed by California Corporation Code 5332, this Corporation may establish non-voting membership for any legal purpose other than for carrying on the business of the Corporation. Any responsible individual or organization approving of the objectives of this Corporation shall be eligible for such non-voting membership. The Board of Directors may establish different classes of non-voting memberships and determine the procedures for becoming, the dues for, and duration of non-voting memberships.

ARTICLE IV CHAPTERS

Section 1. Chapters: The Corporation may have chapters which operate in a geographic territory and carry out such functions and tasks as the Corporation may delegate to the chapters.

Section 2: Administrative Authority Fundraising: All monies raised by the chapters will go to the SRT General Fund to be used in accordance with the Board's annual budget. There shall be no separate chapter dues. Any gift received may be restricted for use to any preserve or project at the request of the donor.

ARTICLE V BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. General Powers: The property, affairs and activities of the Corporation shall be managed by a Board of Directors consisting of not less than nine (9) nor more than twenty-one (21) members, as may be initially determined by the incorporators and as may be determined thereafter from time to time by a majority of the current Directors on the Board of Directors. The powers of the Board of Directors shall include the authority to accept, transfer and encumber property and interests in property and the authority to retain an Executive Director.

Section 2. Other Powers: Subject to limitations of the Articles of Incorporation or of other sections of the Bylaws, or of California law, and without limiting the general powers, the Board of Directors shall have the following powers:

- A. To conduct, manage, and control the affairs and business of this Corporation, and to make rules and regulations consistent with law, Articles of Incorporation, or Bylaws; and
- B. To select and remove any officer, agent, or Executive Director, prescribe powers and duties for them, and require from them security for faithful service;
- C. To purchase real estate, to borrow money and incur indebtedness by a two-thirds majority vote of the Board for the purposes of the Corporation, and for that purpose to cause to be executed and delivered, in the Corporate name, promissory notes, bonds, debentures, deeds of trust, mortgages, pledges, hypothecations, or other evidence of debt and securities by a two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors.
- D. To do all acts that may be carried out by members of a membership corporation.

Section 3. Election: The Board at its annual meeting shall elect new Directors as determined by the Board of Directors and each such Director shall serve until the expiration of his or her three-year term. Unless otherwise decided by the Board of Directors, each Director shall have the option to serve three (3) consecutive terms.

Section 4. Terms of Office: All members of the Board of Directors shall be designated or elected for three (3) year terms and shall assume their posts at the annual meeting of the Board of Directors. After three consecutive terms of (3) years a Director must leave the Board for one (1) year. The terms of members of the Board of Directors shall expire on a rotating basis, with no more than one-third (1/3) of the Directors' terms expiring at any one time. The initial Board of Directors shall establish procedures for designations and elections.

Section 5. Removal: Any officer or Director may be removed by affirmative vote of a majority of the current Directors on the Board of Directors for failure to participate, non-performance of duties, or other cause deemed sufficient by the Board.

Section 6. Vacancies: In case of a vacancy, the remaining Directors may elect in December of that year a successor for the remainder of the vacant term.

Section 7. Call and Notice:

- A. The Board of Directors shall meet on a call by the President or on written request or by electronic mail filed with the Secretary by four or more Directors. The

Secretary shall give reasonable notice to each Director of the time, place and date of each meeting by notice in writing mailed, postage prepaid, not later than the tenth (10th) day before the day set for the meeting and addressed to the Director's last known post office address according to the Corporation's records, or by electronic mail, telegraphic or telephonic communication or notice in writing delivered personally to the Director's residence or usual place of business not later than the second day before the day set for the meeting. No notice of the time, date, place or purpose of any meeting need be given to any Director who, in writing executed and filed with the records of the meeting either before or after the holding thereof, waives such notice or who attends the meeting.

- B. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Board of Directors may establish regular meetings on a monthly, bimonthly, or quarterly basis provided it is at the same time and place, and special notice of this meeting of the Board of Directors shall not be required to be given, but in all cases the Secretary of the Corporation will endeavor to give notice of said meeting including notice of the agenda thereof. Business conducted at a regularly scheduled meeting pursuant to this subsection shall be validly conducted regardless of the formal notice given for such meeting, provided there is a quorum and all other formalities have been complied with.

Section 8. Annual Meeting: The annual meeting of the Board of Directors shall be held at such time and place as the Board of Directors shall determine by resolution. Notice of the time, date and place of the annual meeting of the Board of Directors shall be given in the manner set forth in Section 7. The Board of Directors shall keep minutes of its meetings and a full account of its transactions.

Section 9. Quorum and Voting: At every meeting of the Board, a quorum shall consist of a majority of the current Directors serving on the Board of Directors. Unless otherwise specified in these Bylaws, a majority vote of those persons actually present in person or by telephone, in a manner prescribed by applicable laws, at a meeting at which there is a quorum will prevail on all matters. Participation in a meeting through the use of a conference telephone pursuant to the following conditions will constitute a presence at that meeting.

Each member participating in the meeting can communicate with all of the other Board members concurrently.

Each member is provided the means of participating in all matters before the Board, including, without limitation, the capacity to propose, or to interpose an objection to, a specific action to be taken by the organization.

The organization adopts and implements some means of verifying both of the following.

- i. A person participating in the meeting is a Director or other person entitled to participate in the Board meeting.
- ii. All actions of, or votes by, the Board are taken or cast only by the Directors and not by persons who are not Directors.

There shall be no voting by proxy.

Section 10. Conduct of Business: All decisions and actions of the Board of Directors of this Corporation shall normally be made in consensus. When the presiding officer senses agreement in the expressions from all Board members, on the matter under discussion, he or she will ask for or form a motion and then ask if all agree with the motion as stated. If no one expresses disagreement with the wording of the motion, it will be voted on and if passed, recorded as a decision of the Board. If consensus cannot be reached after considerable discussion of a subject, a motion and vote in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order will prevail.

Section 11. Compensation: Directors shall receive no compensation for their services as such but may, by resolution of the Board of Directors, be allowed reimbursement for their expenses actually and reasonably incurred on behalf of the Corporation.

Section 12. Informal Action by Directors: Any action of the Directors may be taken without a meeting if consent in writing setting forth the action taken is signed by Directors and filed with the minutes of the Corporation.

Section 13. Other Forms of Attendance and Voting: Whenever there is informal action by the Directors, such consent to that informal action may be obtained from any Director by means of electronic mail, provided there is an adequate electronic signature to verify the voting, or by fax. Any Director may appear at a meeting by telephone, provided the requirements of California Corporations Code Section 5211 are met. In addition, in the event a matter is discussed at one meeting and then continued for a vote to a following meeting, a Director may vote by proxy on that matter in spite of the general rule against voting by proxy described in Section 9 above. Also, for any matter a Director may give to another Director a written statement of his/her position to present to the Board which statement of position shall be taken into account in reaching consensus as described in Section 10 above.

ARTICLE VI OFFICERS

Section 1. Officers: The officers of the Corporation shall be a President, Vice President, a Secretary and a Treasurer. All officers shall be Directors and shall be elected by the Board of Directors. Each officer shall serve until a successor is elected and qualified. The Board of Directors may, from time to time, appoint such other officers as it deems necessary.

Section 2. Powers and Duties: The powers and duties of the officers are as follows:

A. The Board of Directors' President's duties shall include:

- i. Providing broad leadership and direction for the organization;
- ii. Arranging for and presiding over meetings of the Board of Directors.
- iii. Acting as SRT Board of Directors chief spokesperson and the Board of Directors point of contact for all external organizations.
- iv. Being the executive officer and overseeing the carrying out of programs;
- v. Presiding at all meetings of the members of the Executive Committee;
- vi. Acting as an ex-officio member of all committees except the Nominating Committee;
- vii. Presenting an annual report to the members at the annual meeting or designating a representative to present said report;
- viii. Signing contracts and other instruments authorized by the Board, and
- ix. Overseeing the employment of the Executive Director.

B. The Vice President's duties shall include:

- i. Acting in the absence of the President.

C. The Treasurer's duties shall include:

- i. Reporting at the annual meeting of the membership;
- ii. Presenting the annual budget for Board of Directors' approval;
- iii. Serving as Chair of the Finance Committee;
- iv. Performing such other functions as may be incident to the office; and
- v. Oversight of:
 - a. Collecting and receiving all monies due;
 - b. Acting as custodian of these monies and depositing them in a bank designated by the Board of Directors;
 - c. Disbursing the corporate monies in accordance with the budget or upon order of the Board;
 - d. Maintaining books and ledgers as directed by the Board;
 - e. Preparing monthly financial statements and presenting such statements to the Board on request;

D. The Secretary's duties shall include:

- i. Keeping minutes of all meetings of the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee, and
- ii. Controlling the corporate seal.

Section 3. Executive Director: The day-to-day affairs of the Corporation shall be handled by an Executive Director whose compensation shall be fixed by the Board of Directors. The Executive Director shall report directly to the President and to the Executive Committee of the Board. The job description of the Executive Director shall be created by the Board of Directors. The Executive Director shall employ a staff, prescribe powers and duties for them, and fix employee compensation. The Executive Director is able to sign legal documents and contracts as a member of the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE VII COMMITTEES

Section 1. Executive Committee: The Executive Committee shall consist of the Board Officers and Executive Director acting as staff and the former Board President acting as ex-officio. The Executive Committee shall act for the Board of Directors during the period between Board meetings and shall exercise all powers of the Board except any which have been expressly reserved by resolution of the Board or by these Bylaws. The general charge shall be to carry out the policies and directives of the Board on a continuing basis. Any current Board Officer or Executive Director shall be able to sign any non-binding contract and any legal document or binding contract as authorized by the Board. The functions will include: discussing new business and referring it to other committees when appropriate, considering policy issues and making recommendations for Board of Directors action, notifying all members and any other persons of Board positions to be filled, organizing membership, Board and other meetings, and performing other functions not being done by some other committee or member. The Secretary shall give reasonable notice to each member of the Executive Committee of the time, date and place for each Executive Committee meeting.

Section 2. Nominating Committee: Prior to the annual meeting of the members, the Chair of the prior committee and the President shall appoint a committee to nominate persons for the Director positions becoming vacant. The committee shall select a chair from its members.

Section 3. Committees: The Corporation shall establish Board committees as deemed necessary. The composition and duties of these committees shall be determined by the Board of Directors.

Section 4. Powers and Restrictions of Committees: Each Board committee shall have power to carry out the functions assigned to it in the Bylaws or by the Board, subject to the following restrictions. New policy recommendations and contracts of a non-routine nature shall be submitted in writing by the committee chairperson to each Board member and will automatically become an action of the Board within ten (10) days of the mailing of the recommendation or contract unless a Board member notifies the committee, and the President and Secretary of the organization of an objection or a request for further discussion. A Board committee may be authorized to exercise any power of the Board. Minutes of all committee meetings shall be maintained and submitted to the Secretary.

ARTICLE VIII FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

Section 1. Fiscal Year: The fiscal year of the Corporation shall end on December 31 of each year.

Section 2. Bank Accounts: The funds of the Corporation shall be deposited in one or more banks or financial institutions as designated by the Board of Directors. All checks shall be signed by Board officer(s), and/or the Executive Director.

Section 3. Disbursements: Disbursements shall be made only in accordance with a specific authorization or a general budget approved by the Board of Directors and pursuant to such procedures as the Board of Directors may establish.

Section 4. Audits: The Board of Directors shall cause an annual audit of the financial affairs of SRT to be conducted by an independent certified public accountant.

Section 5. Insurance: The Board of Directors shall secure insurance to protect the Corporation, the Board of Directors and the officers from liability. The amount of insurance shall be sufficient under California Corporations Code 5239 so as to protect Directors from personal liability.

ARTICLE IX INDEMNIFICATION

Section 1. Indemnification: Any Board Director or other person who performs services for the Corporation and who does not receive compensation other than reimbursement of expenses for those services shall be immune from civil liability in accordance with the State of California Non-profit Public Benefit Corporation law. No employee shall be held personally liable in damages for acts done within the scope of his or her employment except to the extent provided in such law. The Corporation shall carry general liability and Directors' insurance.

Section 2. Reimbursement of Expenses: In the event that any officer, Director, agent or employee of the Corporation is sued for actions taken in the course and scope of their employment, or agency, then provided the person acted in good faith and for purposes of furthering the purposes of this Corporation, in any litigation against said person, the Corporation shall provide a defense and indemnify such person from any judgment or settlement to the fullest extent as allowed by California law.

ARTICLE X AMENDMENT OF BYLAWS

Section 1. Manner of Amendment: These Bylaws may be amended, repealed, or replaced, by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the full Board of Directors at a meeting at which a quorum is present; provided that notice of the nature of the proposed amendment has been mailed to all Directors at least thirty (30) days in advance of the meeting.

Section 2. Previous Bylaws Superseded: Amended Bylaws supersede previous Bylaws of this Corporation and all amendments thereto.

Section 3. Effect of Bylaws: These Bylaws are in all respects subordinate to, and shall be controlled by, applicable provisions of the California Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation Law, other applicable laws, and the Articles of Incorporation of this Corporation. Except as these Bylaws may be inconsistent with said laws and Articles, they shall regulate the conduct of the business and affairs of this Corporation with respect to all matters to which they relate.

ARTICLE XI CORPORATE SEAL

Section 1. Corporate Seal: The Board of Directors shall adopt a corporate seal that shall be in the following form and design:

The Secretary of the Corporation shall have the custody of the seal and affix it in all appropriate cases to all corporate documents. Failure to affix the seal shall not, however, affect the validity of any instrument.

CERTIFICATE OF SECRETARY
OF

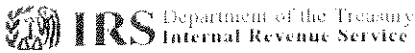
SEQUOIA RIVERLANDS TRUST

I hereby certify that I am the duly elected and acting Secretary of the Corporation and that the foregoing Bylaws comprising eleven (11) pages constitute the Bylaws of the Corporation as duly adopted at a meeting of the Board of Directors held on 12/16/05

DATED: 12/30/05

Brian Newton
Secretary

Seal



Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

OGDEN UT 84201-0038

In reply refer to: 0441773690
June 04, 2010 LTR 4168C EO
77-0347417 000000 00

00030754
BODC: TE

SEQUOIA RIVERLANDS TRUST
% SOAPY MCCARTHY TOMPKINS
427 S GARDEN ST
VISALIA CA 93277



046337

Employer Identification Number: 77-0347417
Person to Contact: Trudie Moser
Toll Free Telephone Number: 1-877-829-5500

Dear Taxpayer:

This is in response to your May 25, 2010, request for information regarding your tax-exempt status.

Our records indicate that your organization was recognized as exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code in a determination letter issued in September 1993.

Our records also indicate that you are not a private foundation within the meaning of section 509(a) of the Code because you are described in section(s) 509(a)(1) and 170(b)(1)(A)(vi).

Donors may deduct contributions to you as provided in section 170 of the Code. Bequests, legacies, devises, transfers, or gifts to you or for your use are deductible for Federal estate and gift tax purposes if they meet the applicable provisions of sections 2055, 2106, and 2522 of the Code.

Beginning with the organization's sixth taxable year and all succeeding years, it must meet one of the public support tests under section 170(b)(1)(A)(vi) or section 509(a)(2) as reported on Schedule A of the Form 990. If your organization does not meet the public support test for two consecutive years, it is required to file Form 990-PF, Return of Private Foundation, for the second tax year that the organization failed to meet the support test and will be reclassified as a private foundation.

If you have any questions, please call us at the telephone number shown in the heading of this letter.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Rita A. Leete".

Rita A. Leete
Accounts Management II

PROJECT SUMMARY

Sequoia Riverlands Trust Category 2 Application to SNC Proposition 84 Grants Program

County: Tulare

Applicant: Sequoia Riverlands Trust

Project Title: Pre-acquisition Work on Four Strategic Land Conservation Prospects in the Southern Sierra Foothills

PROJECT GOAL

The purpose of the project is to take advantage of a window of opportunity to conserve three large ranches and one smaller, but strategically located property, to improve climate change resilience in the southern Sierra Nevada foothills. The three large properties are among the Southern Sierra Partnership's top six priorities for protection, based on results of the SSP's recent climate-adapted conservation planning effort. Sequoia Riverlands Trust and its partners have been working on each of these land protection opportunities for at least two years, and momentum seems to be building to bring them to fruition. Each needs a well-placed investment – an appraisal, or Conceptual Area Protection Plan, or biological evaluation, or focused attention on negotiations and partnership development – to move the project toward conserved status.

The project will facilitate protection of roughly 40,000 acres of blue oak woodland, grassland, rare communities such as vernal pools and sycamore alluvial woodlands, habitat for and occurrences of numerous special status species and many miles of high quality riparian corridors connecting these other habitats.

PROJECT SCOPE

The project includes such activities as appraisals, biological evaluations, environmental site assessments, focused negotiations with landowners, and development of innovative conservation partnerships focused on protecting four significant properties in the Kaweah, Deer Creek, White River, Poso Creek and Kern River drainages.

LETTERS OF SUPPORT

Letters of support are provided from SRT's fellow members of the Southern Sierra Partnership (The Nature Conservancy, The Sierra Business Council and Audubon-California), the Tulare Basin Wildlife Partners, and the potential conservation buyer for the large ranch near Bakersfield.

Due to the confidential nature of most of these transaction at this stage, SRT did not seek letters of support from other conservation groups or public entities.

SNC PROJECT DELIVERABLES AND SCHEDULE

It is difficult to predict the exact timing of the tasks proposed for this grant since they are dependent on progress of negotiations with landowners, uncertain capacity of agencies, issues that may be discovered during title searches and so forth. Tasks that are anticipated for each property during a two-year grant period are listed more or less sequentially below, followed by a schedule of SNC grant reporting milestones.

Mebane Ranch

- Complete biological field evaluation of upper elevation portions of the ranch
- Complete environmental site assessment for entire ranch
- Complete negotiation of Phase 1 purchase and sale agreement and conservation easement terms
- Confirm funding for Phase 1 conservation easement or fee title acquisition (acquisition funds not in this SNC grant)
- Execute Phase 1 of option agreement and close the transaction
- Define Phase 2 conservation easement, outline easement terms
- Appraise value of Phase 2 conservation easement
- Identify probable funding source for Phase 2 and beyond; apply for Phase 2 funding

Hershey Ranch

- Confirm phased option agreement to acquire fee title and/or conservation easements on the entire ranch
- Facilitate DFG approval of draft Deer Creek Conceptual Area Protection Plan
- Complete biological field evaluation for entire ranch
- Complete environmental site assessment for entire ranch
- Complete negotiation of Phase 1 purchase and sale agreement and conservation easement terms (as applicable)
- Confirm funding for Phase 1 conservation easement or fee title acquisition (acquisition funds not in this SNC grant)
- Execute Phase 1 of option agreement and close the transaction
- Define Phase 2 conservation easement and outline easement terms
- Appraise value of Phase 2 conservation easement and/or fee title acquisition
- Identify probable funding source for Phase 2 and beyond; apply for Phase 2 funding

Flynn Ranch (Phase 2)

- Develop phased option agreement to acquire conservation easements on parts of the ranch not included in Phase 1
- Draft White River Conceptual Area Protection Plan and submit to DFG for review and approval
- Complete environmental site assessment for parts of the ranch not included in Phase 1
- Define Phase 2 conservation easement and outline easement terms
- Appraise value of Phase 2 conservation easement
- Identify probable funding source for Phase 2 and beyond; apply for Phase 2 funding

Craig Ranch

- Complete biological records search and field evaluation to confirm values relevant to Case Mountain ACEC
- Appraise value of the property per the revised parcel map
- Assist BLM with securing the property (e.g. finding a partner that would enable SRT to acquire and hold the property until BLM receives LWCF funding)
- Coordinate with BLM to complete environmental due diligence and other pre-acquisition work to ready the property for BLM acquisition

SNC Grant Reporting Milestones

By June 2011	Execute Prop. 84 grant agreement between SNC and SRT
By Nov. 2011	Submit six-month progress report to SNC
By May 2012	Submit annual progress report to SNC
By Nov. 2012	Submit eighteen-month progress report
By May 2013	Submit final report and payment request to SNC

SNC PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Project-related staff/personnel expense	\$28,596
Project-related travel	\$3,545
Project-related contracts/consultants (including SRT Executive Director)	\$112,386
Project-related materials & supplies	\$1,150
Appraisals, valuation updates, title reports	\$36,000
Project administration	\$16,824
SNC GRANT TOTAL	<u>\$198,500</u>

A. PROJECT QUALITY AND READINESS

General Description

Sequoia Riverlands Trust (SRT) is the primary land trust working in the southern Sierra Nevada to conserve the region's natural and agricultural legacy. By working with willing landowners and partner organizations, the land trust has protected 10,300 acres, including 20 conservation easements and seven fee title preserves, as well as lands acquired and re-conveyed to agencies managing the Pixley National Wildlife Refuge and Carrizo Plain National Monument.

SRT is also a founding member of the Southern Sierra Partnership (SSP), an alliance with The Nature Conservancy, Audubon-California and the Sierra Business Council dedicated to rapid, innovative actions to conserve biodiversity and ecosystem services at the landscape level in the face of climate change, development pressures and other regional threats.

In 2009 the Southern Sierra Partnership joined with the newly formed Tejon Ranch Conservancy to develop a strategic, climate-adapted conservation vision for the southern Sierra Nevada and Tehachapi Mountains. The planning team characterized the current status of major conservation targets, such as blue oak woodlands, and riparian and aquatic communities, as well as ecosystem services like watershed function, forage production and carbon sequestration. The team also analyzed threats to the integrity of those targets over the next 50 years, with special attention to climate change. The planning effort reinforced the urgency and importance of traditional conservation strategies in helping species and communities successfully adapt to climate change -- conserve large blocks of high quality native habitat that have not been fragmented or degraded by development, maintain connections among these habitat blocks and among different habitat types, especially along riparian corridors; encompass areas with unique soils (e.g. clay pan, adobe) or other conditions that support endemic or rare species. A "regional conservation design" (see map attached) emerged that integrates conservation goals, regionally-scaled modeling of climate change and its potential effects on the distribution of species and biological communities, existing and projected development, and where future land conservation can build on past successes. Among other things, the design provides a touchstone for prioritizing land and easement acquisition opportunities.

The SSP prioritized six rangeland properties for protection over the next five years (see map attached), selected for their contribution to --

- connections among major eco-regions and plant communities
- conserving foothill vegetation communities such as grasslands and blue oak woodlands that lack formal protection, especially with the uncertain future of the Williamson Act
- protecting rare habitats and species within the larger vegetation communities

Sequoia Riverlands Trust 2010 Category 2 Application
EVALUATION CRITERIA

- ecosystem services, such as water yield, natural flow regulation, livestock forage production, biological diversity, scenic open space and carbon sequestration
- a sustainable ranching economy and land management practices that in turn sustain biological diversity, ecosystem services and the people with ties to ranching
- climate change adaptation -- the ability of species to shift their distributions and life habits in response to climate change), and landscape features such as canyons, riparian corridors and north-facing slopes that provide refugia in a warming climate
- understanding of climate change impacts and opportunities to demonstrate management that promotes resilience to the effects of climate change

Purpose of the Proposed Project

Sequoia Riverlands Trust seeks SNC grant support to complete pre-acquisition work on four strategic land conservation prospects in the southern Sierra Nevada. Three of these opportunities are among the Southern Sierra Partnership's top priorities for protection. The fourth prospect is a relatively small but strategically located parcel that, if acquired, will complete protection of the riparian corridor from the Bureau of Land Management's Case Mountain Area of Critical Environmental Concern to the main stem of the Kaweah River, and also secure public access to ten miles of popular recreation trails. Sequoia Riverlands Trust has been actively working on all four prospects for two years or more. In each case, a well-placed investment in partnership development, appraisals or other pre-acquisition work is needed to bring the project to fruition.

Specifically, SRT requests funding to advance the following land conservation opportunities:

Mebane Ranch – A 15,850 acre working cattle ranch in the foothills just east of Bakersfield that spans from roughly 1,000 to 4,000 feet in elevation and shares five miles of common boundary with the Sequoia National Monument. The ranch is bounded by the Kern River to the south, and Poso Creek to the north, and contains a number of springs and ephemeral creeks. There is suitable habitat or actual occurrences of ten special status species, along with thousands of acres of blue oak woodlands and grasslands that are all vulnerable to the residential development spreading out from Bakersfield. The property is strategically located to help maintain lower elevation connections from the Tehachapi Mountains to the southern Sierra Nevada, and connectivity along the elevation gradient from the Valley floor to the mountains. The ranch's strategic conservation significance has been recognized by the California Essential Habitat Connectivity Project, the California Rangeland Conservation Coalition, the South Coast Wildlands Tehachapi Linkage Design, and the California Department of Fish and Game's Conceptual Area Protection Planning process. The ranch has been on the market, and Sequoia Riverlands Trust, The Nature Conservancy and a conservation buyer have been discussing purchase scenarios with the landowner for about two years.

Sequoia Riverlands Trust 2010 Category 2 Application
EVALUATION CRITERIA

Goals during the SNC grant period will be to: a) develop a phased package for acquiring fee title and conservation easements on the entire ranch in concert with a known conservation buyer; b) complete negotiations and other pre-acquisition work necessary to close Phase 1 during the SNC grant period (with funds for actual acquisition coming from other sources); c) conduct negotiations and other pre-acquisition work on Phase 2 sufficient to obtain an option and develop credible funding proposals for that phase; and d) develop partnerships that support efforts to protect the ranch.

Hershey Ranch – a 15,000 acre ranch straddling about 10 miles of Deer Creek, one of the few un-dammed perennial streams flowing from the southern Sierra Nevada out into the Tulare Lake Basin. Numerous other intermittent creeks and springs flow through expanses of blue oak woodland rich in wildlife such as neo-tropical migratory birds, mountain lions, deer, golden eagles and black bear. The ranch was also one of the last places in the southern Sierra Nevada to lose the California condor, and hopefully will be one of the first places to which the endangered birds return in Tulare County. Deer Creek supports a diverse native fish assemblage, and its riparian corridor links multiple vegetation communities along a 5,000 foot elevation gradient – from mixed conifer forest at about 6,500 feet, through blue oak woodlands, to the annual grasslands at the lower end of the ranch. The ranch's strategic conservation significance has been recognized by the California Essential Habitat Connectivity Project, the California Rangeland Conservation Coalition, and the California Department of Fish and Game's Conceptual Area Protection Planning process. The ranch has been on the market, and Sequoia Riverlands Trust, The Nature Conservancy and potential conservation buyers have been discussing purchase scenarios with the landowner for about three years.

Goals during the SNC grant period will be to: a) develop a phased package for acquiring fee title and/or conservation easements on the entire ranch; b) complete negotiations and other pre-acquisition work necessary to close Phase 1 during the SNC grant period (with funds for actual acquisition coming from other sources); c) conduct negotiations and other pre-acquisition work on Phase 2 sufficient to obtain an option and develop credible funding proposals for that phase; and d) develop partnerships that support efforts to protect the ranch.

Flynn Ranch – A 12,000 acre working cattle ranch in the White River watershed southeast of Terra Bella. The ranch straddles four miles of the contact zone between grasslands and blue oak woodlands; contains numerous vernal pools, rare alkali meadow and sycamore alluvial woodland habitat, and special status species such as kit fox and American badger; and is home to the same family that homesteaded there in 1874. The landowner wants to keep the ranch intact, has initiated Phase 1 of protecting the entire ranch with conservation easements (see SRT's Category 1 grant application), and wants to begin work on the next phase. The ranch's strategic conservation significance has been recognized by the California Essential Habitat Connectivity Project (natural lands that are part of an important corridor), and the California Rangeland Conservation Coalition.

Sequoia Riverlands Trust 2010 Category 2 Application
EVALUATION CRITERIA

Goals during the SNC grant period will be to: a) develop a phased package for protecting the areas of the ranch not included in Phase 1; b) conduct negotiations and other pre-acquisition work on Phase 2 sufficient to obtain an option and develop credible funding proposals for that phase; and c) draft a White River Conceptual Area Protection Plan for consideration by the California Department of Fish & Game to enable future participation in Wildlife Conservation Board funding programs.

Craig Ranch – a 96-acre property strategically located near the confluence of scenic Salt Creek and the main stem of the Kaweah River, an area of Three Rivers that is very vulnerable to residential subdivision and development. The 4.5-mile Salt Creek riparian corridor connects giant sequoia groves and chaparral in the Case Mountain Area of Critical Environmental Concern to blue oak woodlands 5,000 feet below. The Bureau of Land Management holds a trail easement over the Craig Ranch to ten miles of popular recreation trails on the Case Mountain ACEC, but parking inadequate parking at the trailhead causes conflicts with the neighbors. The new youth conference center at the neighboring St. Anthony Retreat offers excellent opportunities for outdoor education partnerships with SRT.

SRT applied for a Sierra Nevada Conservancy grant in 2008 to acquire fee title on the ranch, but there were still outstanding issues with the deceased landowner's estate that made the appraisal uncertain. A new parcel map has been completed and awaits approval by the County. The Bureau of Land Management has expressed interest in obtaining fee title for addition to adjoining BLM lands, but the project needs a push from SRT.

Goals during the SNC grant period will be to: a) appraise the value of the re-configured property; b) coordinate with BLM to obtain Land & Water Conservation Fund moneys to acquire fee title; and c) facilitate the transaction.

Sequoia Riverlands Trust 2010 Category 2 Application
EVALUATION CRITERIA

Work Plan and Schedule

Tasks prior to SNC grant period –

Mebane Ranch

- Explore avenues for funding protection of a portion of the ranch through the Metro Bakersfield Habitat Conservation Plan
- Work with Department of Fish & Game to secure approval of a draft Conceptual Area Protection Plan that affects future eligibility for WCB funding
- Conduct a biological field evaluation for lower elevations of the ranch
- Define Phase 1 of the project and obtain an appraisal
- Negotiate a phased option agreement to acquire fee title (conservation buyer)

Hershey Ranch

- Draft a Conceptual Area Protection Plan for the Deer Creek area (completed, awaiting DFG approval)
- Continue negotiations with landowner and potential partners with ultimate goal of obtaining a phased option agreement to acquire fee title or conservation easement on the entire ranch
- Define Phase 1 of the project and obtain an appraisal

Flynn Ranch (Phase 2)

- Initiate discussion with DFG regarding a potential White River Conceptual Area Protection Plan
- Complete a biological field evaluation for the entire ranch (completed May 2010)

Craig Ranch

- Verify status of revised parcel map
- Continue discussion with estate trustee and BLM regarding potential fee title purchase by BLM
- Assist BLM with proposal for LWCF funding (2013?)

Tasks during SNC grant period –

It is difficult to predict the exact timing of the tasks proposed for this grant since they are dependent on progress of negotiations with landowners, uncertain capacity of agencies, issues that may be discovered during title searches and so forth. Tasks that are anticipated for each property during a two-year grant period are listed more or less sequentially below, followed by a schedule of SNC grant reporting milestones.

Mebane Ranch

- Complete biological field evaluation of upper elevation portions of the ranch

Sequoia Riverlands Trust 2010 Category 2 Application
EVALUATION CRITERIA

- Complete environmental site assessment for entire ranch
- Complete negotiation of Phase 1 purchase and sale agreement and conservation easement terms
- Confirm funding for Phase 1 conservation easement or fee title acquisition (acquisition funds not in this SNC grant)
- Execute Phase 1 of option agreement and close the transaction
- Define Phase 2 conservation easement, outline easement terms
- Appraise value of Phase 2 conservation easement
- Identify probable funding source for Phase 2 and beyond; apply for Phase 2 funding

Hershey Ranch

- Confirm phased option agreement to acquire fee title and/or conservation easements on the entire ranch
- Facilitate DFG approval of draft Deer Creek Conceptual Area Protection Plan
- Complete biological field evaluation for entire ranch
- Complete environmental site assessment for entire ranch
- Complete negotiation of Phase 1 purchase and sale agreement and conservation easement terms (as applicable)
- Confirm funding for Phase 1 conservation easement or fee title acquisition (acquisition funds not in this SNC grant)
- Execute Phase 1 of option agreement and close the transaction
- Define Phase 2 conservation easement and outline easement terms
- Appraise value of Phase 2 conservation easement and/or fee title acquisition
- Identify probable funding source for Phase 2 and beyond; apply for Phase 2 funding

Flynn Ranch (Phase 2)

- Develop phased option agreement to acquire conservation easements on parts of the ranch not included in Phase 1
- Draft White River Conceptual Area Protection Plan and submit to DFG for review and approval
- Complete environmental site assessment for parts of the ranch not included in Phase 1
- Define Phase 2 conservation easement and outline easement terms
- Appraise value of Phase 2 conservation easement
- Identify probable funding source for Phase 2 and beyond; apply for Phase 2 funding

Craig Ranch

- Complete biological records search and field evaluation to confirm values relevant to Case Mountain ACEC
- Appraise value of the property per the revised parcel map
- Assist BLM with securing the property (e.g. finding a partner that would enable SRT to acquire and hold the property until BLM receives LWCF funding)
- Coordinate with BLM to complete environmental due diligence and other pre-acquisition work to ready the property for BLM acquisition

Sequoia Riverlands Trust 2010 Category 2 Application
EVALUATION CRITERIA

SNC Grant Reporting Milestones

By June 2011	Execute Prop. 84 grant agreement between SNC and SRT
By Nov. 2011	Submit six-month progress report to SNC
By May 2012	Submit annual progress report to SNC
By Nov. 2012	Submit eighteen-month progress report
By May 2013	Submit final report and payment request to SNC

Budget

SRT requests \$198,500 from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy Proposition 84 Grants Program for pre-acquisition work on four strategic land protection prospects in the southern Sierra Nevada foothills.

Budget components are as follows:

\$28,596	Project-related Staff/Personnel Expense
\$3,545	Project-related Travel
\$112,386	Project-related Contracts/Consultants, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">SRT Executive Director (\$19,036)Land Conservation Consultant (\$18,000)Attorney (\$13, 500)Biologist (\$18,200)Other Experts (\$10,000, as needed)Environmental Site Assessment Report (\$22,500)GIS Support and Map Production (\$11,150)
\$1,150	Project-related materials and supplies
\$36,000	Appraisals and Valuation Updates (as needed)
\$16,824	Project Administration
<u>\$198,500</u>	TOTAL

“Other experts” will be retained as needed to investigate issues such as mineral resource development potential (if mineral rights are in separate ownership).

Dollars are included for updating appraised valuations in case escrows extend beyond the period that either the Department of General Services or Internal Revenue Service considers the original valuation to be valid.

Sequoia Riverlands Trust 2010 Category 2 Application
EVALUATION CRITERIA

Other Project Contributions are expected to amount to about \$118,550. These include:

\$24,700 – portions of previous or current grants to Sequoia Riverlands Trust from the Resources Legacy Fund Foundation and The Nature Conservancy covering SRT's work on the four projects to date.

\$6,500 – volunteer services of SRT Board President, Scott Spear, that are directly related to the four projects.

\$18,000 – estimated value of in-kind contribution from The Nature Conservancy, in the form of staff assistance with conservation planning and realty transactions, and commission of a draft Deer Creek Conceptual Area Protection Plan. This estimate makes very conservative assumptions about the value of TNC's contribution to the Southern Sierra Partnership conservation planning effort as it relates to the Mebane, Hershey and Flynn properties.

\$10,900 – conservative estimate of what the conservation buyer has contributed or will contribute toward the Mebane Ranch project. This does not include conservation buyer expenses that are strictly related to his personal interest in acquiring fee title to the ranch (vs. exploring strategies for putting the ranch into some kind of formal conservation status).

\$58,450 – estimated value of SRT staff time and consultant expenses to maintain momentum on these projects from now until the SNC grant agreement is executed. The source of this funding is to be determined.

Status of Agreements and Land Tenure

SRT is able to continue some work on the projects for the next few months under a current grant from the Resources Legacy Fund Foundation for SSP conservation plan implementation.

The same RLFF grant ensures SRT some access to ongoing land protection assistance from The Nature Conservancy and the Conservation Biology Institute (SSP Coordinator Susan Antenen).

The conservation buyer continues to be actively engaged with developing strategies for the protection of Mebane Ranch, and is drafting a phased option agreement to present to the landowner.

SRT and its SSP partners continue to pursue other sources of funding to secure the top six land protection priorities identified in the strategic conservation vision (including the Mebane, Hershey and Flynn ranches).

B. PROPOSITION 84 LAND AND WATER BENEFITS

Contribution to Proposition 84 Goals

The SSP conservation planning team concluded that riparian communities of the southern Sierra Nevada are among the most altered and most threatened of all the conservation targets, especially in the lower-elevation foothills and Valley floor. Riparian areas and seasonal wetlands are also likely to be critical as movement corridors and refugia for species adapting to a warming climate. The pre-acquisition work proposed in this application will help SRT protect roughly 22 miles of major perennial or intermittent streams; over 40,000 acres of valuable watershed lands; and dozens of miles of riparian habitat adjoining small feeder streams and springs.

Sequoia Riverlands Trust 2010 Category 2 Application

EVALUATION CRITERIA

The SNC grant will also catalyze protection about 15,000 acres of grassland and 25,000 acres of blue oak woodland, making serious headway toward the Southern Sierra Partnership's goal of conserving large swaths of these under-protected community types .

The riparian, grassland and blue oak woodland community types in turn contain rare communities such as vernal pools, sycamore alluvial woodlands, valley oak woodlands as well as numerous known and suspected occurrences of special status species. The latter include the valley elderberry longhorn beetle, kit fox, adobe-soil obligate plants, golden and bald eagles, Pacific fisher, blunt-nosed leopard lizard, native freshwater fish assemblages and American badger, to name a few.

All four of these properties are part of livestock grazing operations that make a major contribution to the third largest sector of the Tulare and Kern County's multi-billion dollar agricultural industry. Conservation of these ranches will help maintain the continuity of a land-based economy and culture that have proven beneficial to native habitats, species and essential ecosystem services.

Project Sustainability

There is no guarantee that the pre-acquisition work described in this proposal will result in completed land conservation deals. However, Sequoia Riverlands Trust has stayed engaged with all four projects for at least the last two years, the Southern Sierra Partnership is firmly behind these priorities, all have been received favorably in agency and foundation briefings, there is a very committed conservation buyer for the Mebane property, and an enthusiastic landowner on the Flynn property. One thing is sure: A window of opportunity has opened on all four properties, and we need to invest some effort to keep the window open.

Addressing the Impacts of Climate Change

Climate change adaptation (e.g., the ability of species to shift their distributions and life habits in response to climate change) is likely to be facilitated by maintaining large, well-managed block of intact habitat that spans different habitat types, with riparian corridors that serve as both wildlife movement corridors and refugia for plants and animals in a warming climate

The three large ranches addressed in this proposal will make significant contributions to all of these climate-change resilience factors. The smaller Craig Ranch is strategically positioned to improve climate change resilience on thousands of acres in the adjoining Case Mountain Area of Critical Environmental Concern. Their conservation would protect thousands of acres of blue oak woodland and grassland, which are still abundant but largely in private ownership without any formal protection. The Williamson Act, which has insulated many ranches and other agricultural properties from development pressures, has an uncertain future.

C. SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY PROGRAM GOALS

The proposed pre-acquisition work would greatly improve the chances of conserving three large foothill ranches and one strategically located smaller property. Together these properties encompass about 15,000 acres of grassland, 25,000 acres of blue oak woodland and many miles

Sequoia Riverlands Trust 2010 Category 2 Application
EVALUATION CRITERIA

of perennial and intermittent streams. Deer Creek in particular is notable for being un-dammed, supporting a diverse native fish assemblage, and for its abundant high-quality riparian habitats.

In addition, all of these properties are working ranches (or part of a larger operation in the case of Craig Ranch) that play an integral role in Tulare County's third largest agricultural sector.

D. COOPERATION AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Please see the enclosed letters of support from fellow members of the Southern Sierra Partnership, the Tulare Basin Wildlife Partners, and the potential conservation buyer for the Mebane Ranch. Due to the confidential nature of some of the projects at this early stage, SRT has not sought project endorsements from public officials. However, County Supervisor Allen Ishida has been supportive of SRT land protection projects in the past.

In the context of the Southern Sierra Partnership, SRT has briefed representatives from the California Dept. of Fish & Game, the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Bureau of Land Management on SSP land protection priorities for the southern Sierra Nevada. The three large properties included in this proposal are among the SSP's top priorities for conservation in the next five years.

There is no known project opposition.

The Mebane Ranch is the most threatened of the four properties, zoned for 20-acre parcels and lying just east of the urban boundary of fast-growing Bakersfield. Hershey Ranch and Flynn Ranch are more remote and outside areas of planned growth, but because of this they contain thousands of acres of intact habitat.

The benefits of the project will be communicated to elected and agency officials, non-governmental partners and others in the context of outreach for the Southern Sierra Partnership strategic vision for the region. SRT will also inform its members and supporters through its annual report, periodic newsletters and other outreach materials in a manner compatible with maintaining the confidentiality needed for realty negotiations.

E. PROJECT DESIGN, MANAGEMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY

Sequoia Riverlands Trust's portfolio of conservation properties has grown significantly since the organization's inception in 2001, now including over 10,300 acres in 20 conservation easements, seven fee title properties, as well as lands protected by SRT and then conveyed to other agencies for inclusion in the Pixley National Wildlife Refuge and Carrizo Plain National Monument. SRT's current Executive Director, Conservation Director and Finance & Accounting Director are all experienced in land conservation transactions, including partnership development, coordinating with appraisers and other consultants, negotiating conservation easements, preparing baseline documentation, coordinating with escrow agents, and managing grant funding.

Through its participation in the Southern Sierra Partnership, SRT has done extensive strategic conservation planning for the southern Sierra Nevada portion of its focus area. The proposed pre-acquisition work promotes protection of three of the SSP's top six land conservation

Sequoia Riverlands Trust 2010 Category 2 Application
EVALUATION CRITERIA

priorities, and a fourth property contributes protection of a “core area” in the SSP regional conservation design .

SRT’s Conservation Director has a master’s degree in range management, and has been a practicing range conservationist in the southern Sierra Nevada. She will ensure that best management practices and standard monitoring methodologies (e.g. residual dry matter) are incorporated into the conservation easement terms related to livestock grazing on the easement properties.

Sufficient grant funds are in hand to enable SRT staff to keep the project moving and the landowners engaged while awaiting the SNC grant funds. SRT will continue to seek additional funds to complement the SNC grant.

SRT will seek endowment donations from conservation easement landowners for long-term stewardship of conservation easements. SRT documents baseline conditions and monitors its conservation easements according to Land Trust Alliance Standards & Practices.

DETAILED BUDGET FORM

Sequoia Riverlands Trust Proposal for Pre-acquisition Work on Strategic Land Protection Prospects in the Southern Sierra Foothills

SECTION ONE DIRECT COSTS	QTY Mebane	QTY Hershey	QTY Flynn Phase 2	QTY Craig	QTY TOTAL	UNIT*	UNIT COST	TOTAL	SNC Grant Request	Comments
Staff/Personnel Expense -- Project Related										
Conservation Director	150	150	100	30	430	hours	\$37.73	\$16,224	\$16,224	Wages include vacation, health insurance, SRT IRA, as applicable. Benefits line includes only the employer share of payroll tax and workers comp. Time shown for Finance & Acctg. Director is direct effort on project (e.g., coord. with title co.).
Conservation Project Mgr.	80	80	40	20	220	hours	\$25.56	\$5,623	\$5,623	
Finance & Acctg. Director	30	30	20	10	90	hours	\$33.54	\$3,019	\$3,019	
Benefits	*	*	*	*	0.15	% of salaries above	*	\$3,730	\$3,730	
								Subtotal -- Staff/Personnel Expense:		\$28,596
Travel/Meeting Expense -- Project Related										
Meetings with landowners	600	600	240	120	1560	miles	\$0.50	\$780	\$780	Discussion of several projects can be combined in most mtgs so mileage is lumped. Includes trips to places like Bakersfield, Fresno, Sacto, S.F.
Meetings with agencies & partners	*	*	*	*	4000	miles	\$0.50	\$2,000	\$2,000	
Field work for project design & due diligence	450	600	360	120	1530	miles	\$0.50	\$765	\$765	
								Subtotal -- Travel/Meeting Expense:		\$3,545
Contracts/Consultants -- Project Related										
SRT Executive Director	70	70	45	15	200	hours	\$95.18	\$19,036	\$19,036	Contract personnel
Land Conservation Consultant	50	40	30	0	120	hours	\$150.00	\$18,000	\$18,000	Expert in DFG requirements and processes
Attorney	30	30	20	10	90	hours	\$150.00	\$13,500	\$13,500	Assist with title issues, conservation easement terms, water rights, etc.
Biologist	80	100	80	20	280	hours	\$65.00	\$18,200	\$18,200	Biological evaluations and reports, CAPP development, etc.
Other experts	*	*	*	*	\$10,000	dollars	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	Contingency in case issues arise re: mineral resources, etc.
Environmental Site Assessment Reports	8000	8000	6500	0	\$22,500	dollars	\$22,500	\$22,500	\$22,500	As required by SNC or other partners
Mapping and GIS support	4000	4000	2500	650	\$11,150	dollars	\$11,150	\$11,150	\$11,150	
								Subtotal -- Contracts/Consultants:		\$112,386

SECTION ONE DIRECT COSTS		QTY Mebane	QTY Hershey	QTY Flynn Phase 2	QTY Craig	QTY TOTAL	UNIT*	UNIT COST	TOTAL	SNC Grant Request	Comments
CONTINUED ...											
Materials/Supplies -- Project Related											
Printing	*	*	*	*	*	\$1,000	dollars	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	Working maps, reports, photos, etc.
Supplies related to digital cameras and equipment	*	*	*	*	*	\$150	dollars	\$150	\$150	\$150	Film cards, batteries, thumb drives, etc.
Subtotal -- Materials/Supplies:									\$1,150		
Equipment Use Expenses -- Project Related Rental/Insurance/Maintenance/Fuel											
											N/A
TOTAL:											
Equipment Leases/Purchases -- Project Dependent											
											N/A
TOTAL:											
Fees -- Appraisal/Permits/CEQA/Easement (for Category Two Projects)											
Appraisals & Valuation Updates	13000	13000	5000	3500	\$34,500	dollars	\$34,500	\$34,500	\$34,500	As needed to advance the transactions; assumes significant complexity due to phasing, differing agency appraisal standards, etc.	
Preliminary Title Reports	500	500	500	*	\$1,500	dollars	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500		
Subtotal -- Appraisal/Permits/CEQA:									\$36,000		
TOTAL -- DIRECT COSTS:									\$181,677		

SECTION TWO INDIRECT COSTS		QTY Mebane	QTY Hershey	QTY Flynn Phase 2	QTY Craig	QTY TOTAL	UNIT*	UNIT COST	TOTAL	SNC Grant Request	Comments
Staff/Personnel Expense -- Wages/Benefits/Consultants/Contract Labor											
											N/A
TOTAL:											
Printed Materials -- Project related Publications/Communications/Public Outreach											
											N/A
TOTAL:											
Outreach/Education -- Trainers Fees/Facilitators/Facility Expense											
											N/A
TOTAL:											
Equipment Use Expenses -- Insurance/Registrations/Maintenance/Rental											
											N/A
TOTAL:											
Performance Measure Reporting											
											N/A
TOTAL:											

SECTION THREE ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS		QTY Mebane	QTY Hershey	QTY Flynn Phase 2	QTY Craig	QTY TOTAL	UNIT*	UNIT COST	TOTAL	SNC Grant Request	Comments
Conservation Director		*	*	*	*	120	hours	\$37.73	\$4,528	\$4,528	Coord grant agreement, cost acctg and billing with Finance & Admin Director; prep grant reports. Significantly more complex than grant for land acquisition, plus this grant is for two+ years.
Conservation Project Mgr.		*	*	*	*	80	hours	\$25.56	\$2,052	\$2,052	
Finance & Acctg. Director		*	*	*	*	240	hours	\$33.54	\$8,050	\$8,050	Project cost accounting, contracts and payments for consultants, grant payment requests, grant financial reporting
Benefits		*	*	*	*	0.15	% of salaries above	*	\$2,194	\$2,194	
ADMIN. TOTAL (not to exceed 15% of Project Total):										\$16,824	

SNC TOTAL GRANT REQUEST: \$198,500

SECTION FOUR OTHER PROJECT CONTRIBUTIONS*	QTY Mebane	QTY Hershey	QTY Flynn Phase 2	QTY Craig	QTY TOTAL	UNIT*	UNIT COST	Total Contribution	Status**
CONTINUED ...									
OTHER FUNDING TO BE DETERMINED:									
Conservation Director	50	60	30	10	150	hours	\$37.73	\$5,660	
Conservation Project Mgr.	30	25	10	20	85	hours	\$25.56	\$2,173	
Finance & Acctg. Director	30	30	30	20	110	hours	\$33.54	\$3,689	
Benefits	*	*	*	*	0.15	% of salaries above	*	\$1,728	
Travel	450	300	150	120	1020	miles	\$0.50	\$510	
Executive Director	25	25	0	10	60	hours	\$95.18	\$5,711	
Land Conservation Consultant	120	20	10	0	150	hours	\$150.00	\$22,500	To assist with navigating DFG requirements and processes
Attorney	10	5	0	0	15	hours	\$150.00	\$2,250	Investigation of MBHCP as potential
Biologist	65	*	*	*	65	hours	\$65.00	\$4,225	Completed September 2010
Appraisals	5000	5000	0	0	10000	dollars	\$10,000	\$10,000	Completed September 2010
Subtotal -- Other Funding to be Determined:								\$58,446	
TOTAL OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS:								\$118,543	

Sequoia Riverlands Trust 2010 Category 2 Application
PERFORMANCE MEASURES

A. MEASURES COMMON TO ALL CATEGORIES

Number of People Reached

Sequoia Riverlands Trust maintains an active outreach program to state and local partners, SRT members and donors, area teachers and school children, local and regional media outlets, and the people who enjoy SRT's preserves and educational tours. Mechanisms include involvement in regional conservation partnerships and associations (e.g. California Council of Land Trusts, Southern Sierra Partnership, Southern Sierra IRWMP), educational tours and programs, conference presentations (e.g. Land Trust Alliance Rally, California Invasive Plant Council annual conference), community events, presentations to service organizations, on-line and mailed newsletters and annual reports, and a web blog. Information on the benefits of the SNC Proposition 84 grants program and of this particular conservation easement project will be widely disseminated through these avenues.

Dollar Value of Resources Leverage for the Sierra Nevada

Sequoia Riverlands Trust emphasizes a collaborative approach to conservation, as demonstrated by numerous partner relationships and collaborative projects. An typical example of SRT leveraging conservation resources can be found at the Dry Creek Preserve, where a \$200,000 private foundation grant for restoration and planning has been amplified to \$1,000,000 worth of grants and in-kind donations to transform a retired aggregate mine into a scenic nature preserve and venue for public enjoyment and outdoor education. SRT and its partners expect to contribute \$118,500 worth of grants and in-kind donations to the proposed pre-acquisition project.

Dollar Value of Resources Leverage for the Sierra Nevada

The SNC grant will support conservation jobs for those performing under the grant, and will be instrumental in helping ranchers stay on the land, actively engaged in the agricultural economy of the region.

Number of New, Improved or Preserved Economic Activities

As noted above, the SNC grant will help sustain a the long-term continuity of ranching in on lands that contribute significantly the area's multi-billion dollar agricultural industry, while protects biological diversity and watershed health in the southern Sierra Nevada foothills.

B. MEASURES SPECIFIC TO THE PROJECT

Linear Feet of Stream Bank Protected

The proposed pre-acquisition work is expected to set up four strategically important properties for protection. Once conserved, these ranches will protect about 22 miles of major perennial

Sequoia Riverlands Trust 2010 Category 2 Application
PERFORMANCE MEASURES

and intermittent streams, and well as dozens of miles of smaller feeder streams that are important to the Kaweah, Deer Creek, White River, Poso Creek and Kern River watersheds.

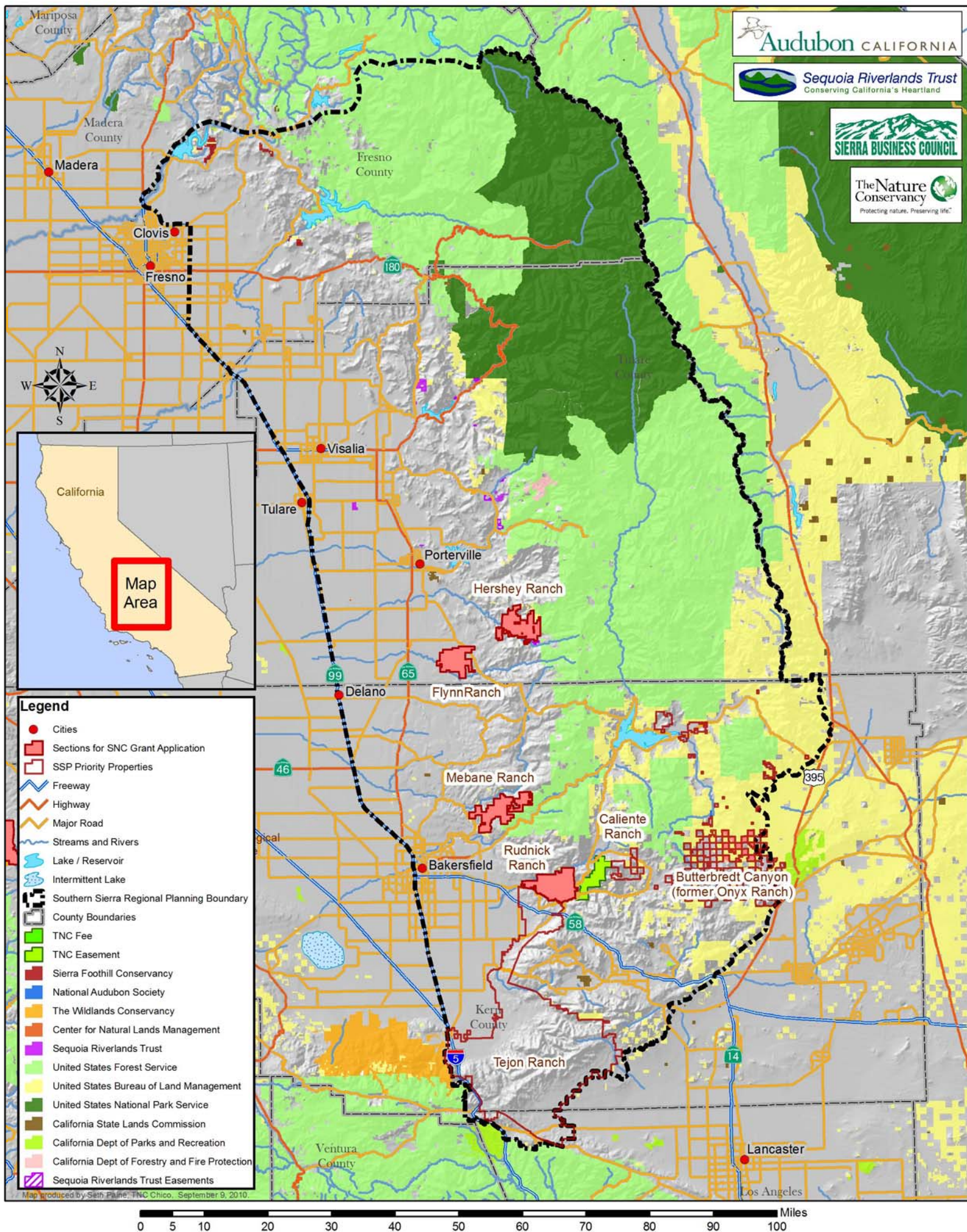
Number of Special Significance Sites

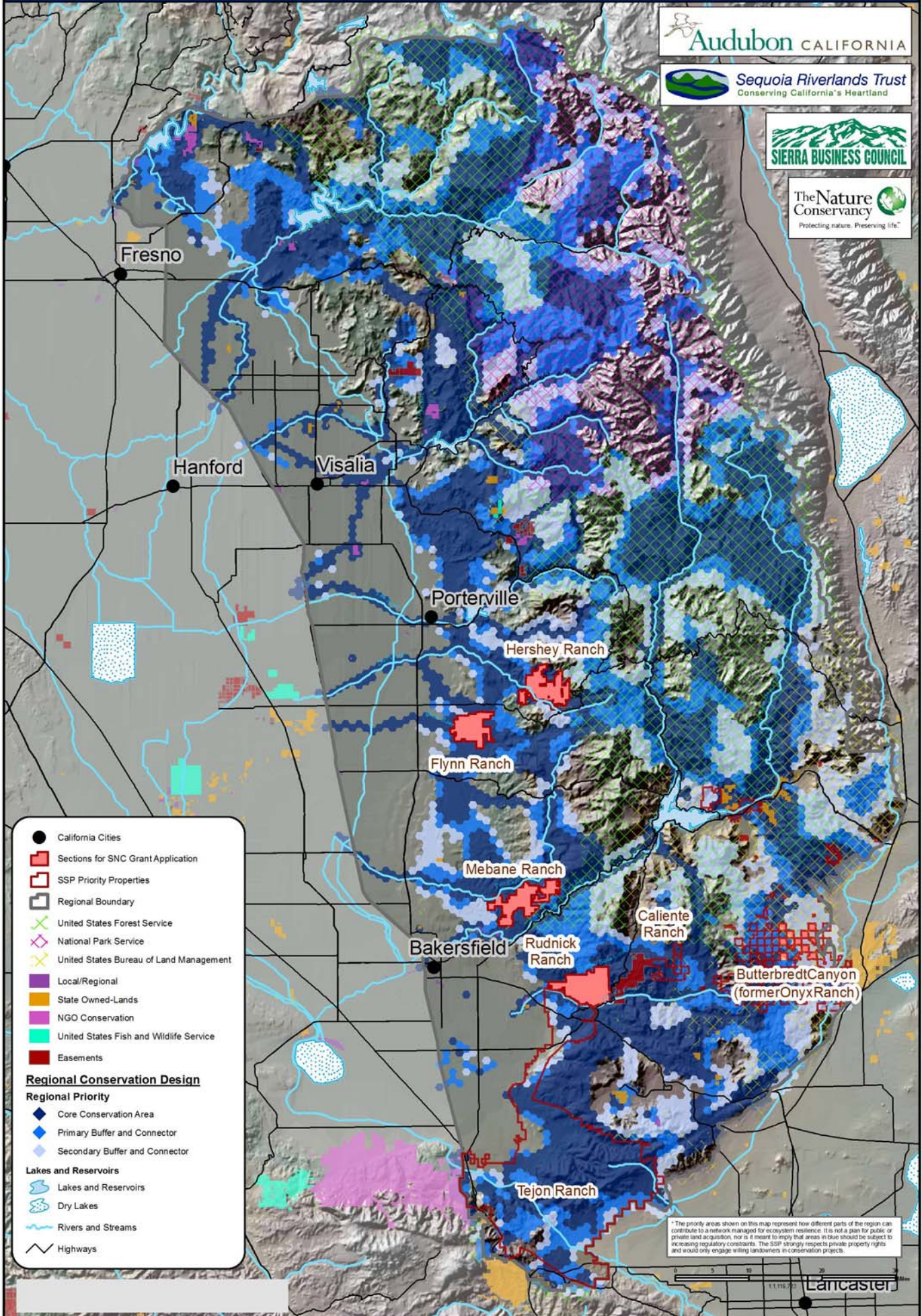
The ranches under consideration contain substantial cultural resources, rare communities such as vernal pools, alkali meadows and sycamore alluvial woodlands, and populations or suitable habitat for a large suite of special status plant and animal species.

Acres of Land Conserved

The proposed pre-acquisition work will greatly improve the chances of protecting over 40,000 acres of intact grassland, blue oak woodland and riparian habitat.

SOUTHERN SIERRA PARTNERSHIP PROTECTION PRIORITIES





Sequoia Riverlands Trust 2010 Category 2 Application
PHOTOS OF THE PROJECT SITES



alkali meadow – ranch on the White River



intermittent stream – ranch on the White River



Craig Ranch looking toward Kaweah River and Sequoia National Park

Sequoia Riverlands Trust 2010 Category 2 Application
PHOTOS OF THE PROJECT SITES



Upper elevation of ranch east of Bakersfield, overlooking Poso Creek and Sequoia National Monument



Sequoia Riverlands Trust 2010 Category 2 Application
PHOTOS OF THE PROJECT SITES

Deer Creek



mid-elevations of ranch along Deer Creek



headquarters of ranch along Deer Creek

Sequoia Riverlands Trust 2010 Category 2 Application
PHOTOS OF THE PROJECT SITES

Sequoia Riverlands Trust 2010 Category 2 Application
CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT

The proposed activity is not a “project” for purposes of CEQA.

Direct Line 626-403-9755

September 8, 2010

Sierra Nevada Conservancy
Grant Program Administrator

Re: Sequoia Riverlands Trust – Acquisition Project Grants

Dear Sir or Madame:

On behalf of The Nature Conservancy, I am writing to support the Sierra Nevada Conservancy grant application of the Sequoia Riverlands Trust for the acquisition of an easement over Flynn Ranch and pre-acquisition work on Mebane and Hershey Ranches. The projects described in this grant application are three of six top acquisition priorities of the Southern Sierra Partnership (SSP), which is an alliance of Audubon California, the Sequoia Riverlands Trust, the Sierra Business Council, and The Nature Conservancy. Successful conservation of this acquisition project is integral to achieving the climate-adapted conservation vision and regional conservation design developed by the SSP through our recent collaborative planning process which focused on biodiversity and ecosystem services across 7 million acres of the southern Sierra Nevada and Tehachapi Mountains.

The SSP's vision and priority acquisition projects absolutely support Prop 84's conservation goals of protecting and restoring California's rivers, lakes and streams, their watersheds and associated land, water, and other natural resources. Each acquisition project also directly supports the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's goal of protecting, conserving, and restoring the Region's physical, cultural, archaeological, historical, and living resources, and aiding in the preservation of working landscapes.

These priority properties contribute to maintaining regional landscape integrity and connectivity, as well as, conserving vital water resources and under-conserved biodiversity in the southern Sierra. Each also contributes to preserving California's working landscape by protecting vulnerable rangelands from threat of development and surface and ground water and supporting well-managed ranching.

By conserving significant sections of the southern Sierra's watersheds, the properties will help sustain water quality and supply essential for wildlife and for communities and agriculture in the southern San Joaquin Valley. Protection of the priority properties will support mitigation of climate change by providing for ecosystem health and protection of the carbon sequestration functions of natural woodlands, deserts, and grasslands. Mebane Ranch captures important elevational gradients and its eventual easement acquisition will prevent continued expansion of the City of Bakersfield into valuable blue oak habitat. Hershey Ranch captures important blue oak and riparian habitat as well as considerable water resources. The Flynn easement protects endangered grassland species and enables a longtime ranching family to continue ranching). Once protected, they will be managed for ecosystem resilience and become part of a network of properties in the southern Sierra where climate-adapted management will be tested.

In closing, these are among the top 6 priority properties of the Southern Sierra Partnership. The Sierra Nevada Conservancy grants are vital to their conservation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. J. Remson", with a long, sweeping horizontal flourish extending to the right.

E. J. Remson

Senior Program Manager

September 8, 2010

Sierra Nevada Conservancy
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205
Auburn, CA 95603

RE: Grant Application to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy

To whom it may concern:

On behalf of Sierra Business Council I am writing to support the Sierra Nevada Conservancy grant applications of Sequoia Riverlands Trust for pre-acquisition work on Mebane and Hershey Ranches and Phase 2 of the Flynn Ranch. These projects are top acquisition priorities of the Southern Sierra Partnership (SSP), which is an alliance of Audubon-California, the Sequoia Riverlands Trust, the Sierra Business Council, and The Nature Conservancy.

Successful conservation of these acquisition projects is integral to achieving the climate-adapted conservation vision and regional conservation design developed by the SSP.

The SSP vision and priority acquisition projects absolutely support Prop 84's conservation goals of protecting and restoring California's rivers, lakes and streams, their watersheds and associated land, water, and other natural resources. This project directly supports the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's goal of protecting, conserving, and restoring the Region's physical, cultural, and historical assets while aiding in the preservation of working landscapes.

By conserving significant sections of the southern Sierra's watersheds, the properties will help sustain water quality and supply essential for wildlife and for communities and agriculture in the southern San Joaquin Valley. Protection of the priority properties will support mitigation of climate change by providing for ecosystem health and protection of the carbon sequestration functions of natural woodlands, deserts, and grasslands.

Once protected, these properties will be managed for ecosystem resilience and become part of a network of properties in the southern Sierra where climate-adapted management will be tested.

In closing, these properties are three of the top six priority properties of the Southern Sierra Partnership. The Sierra Nevada Conservancy grants are vital to their conservation.

Sincerely,



Steve Frisch
President, Sierra Business Council



PACIFIC AG
Management Inc.

Tel: 661-587-2250
Fax: 661- 587-2254

P.O.Box 1200
29341 Kimberlina Rd.
Wasco, CA 93280

September 10, 2010

Sierra Nevada Conservancy
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205
Auburn, CA 95603

Subject: Sequoia Riverlands Trust Category 2 Application to Sierra Nevada Conservancy Proposition
84 Grants Program for Pre-acquisition Work on Priority Projects in the Southern Sierra Foothills

To Whom It May Concern:

Our family has been farming and ranching for 60 years in Kern County, and recently partnered with Sequoia Riverlands Trust (SRT) to establish an agricultural conservation easement on my farm near the town of Wasco. I am now working with SRT in a "conservation buyer" role to protect a large ranch just east of Bakersfield that the Southern Sierra Partnership has identified as vital to maintaining landscape-level habitat connections from the Tehachapi Mountains to the southern Sierra Nevada, and from the Valley floor up into the mountains. Through this collaboration I hope to acquire fee title to the ranch, with SRT acquiring a conservation easement.

We have been actively working together for over a year to structure the project in a way that is attractive to the current landowner, protects the considerable conservation values of the ranch, and maintains an economically viable ranching operation. This has included numerous meetings with the landowner, The Nature Conservancy, the Department of Fish & Game, the regional director of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and the Board overseeing implementation of the Metro-Bakersfield Habitat Conservation Plan (MBHCP). This past spring I also retained a consulting biologist to conduct a thorough records search on the property's biological resources in light of the MBHCP.

Everyone we have talked to agrees that the ranch, if protected, can play a critical role in conserving the region's unique biological resources while continuing the long tradition of cattle ranching in the area. The property shows up as a high priority on the Department of Conservation's "essential habitat connectivity" map, the California Rangeland Conservation Coalition's map of important rangelands; in the Tulare Basin Wildlife Partners' riparian habitat conservation recommendations, and in the Southern Sierra Partnership's strategic vision. Future funding for actual acquisition of a conservation easement (or easements) looks promising.



PACIFIC AG
Management Inc.

Tel: 661-587-2250
Fax: 661- 587-2254

P.O.Box 1200
29341 Kimberlina Rd.
Wasco, CA 93280

However, it takes substantial legwork -- appraisals, biological field surveys, maps, staff time for landowner outreach and negotiations, and for meetings with partners -- to bring such a significant project to fruition. I urge you to approve SRT's grant application for this kind of "pre-acquisition" work to help conserve the ranch east of Bakersfield, as well as other important properties in the south Sierra foothills.

Sincerely,

Keith Gardner



Kern River Preserve
18747 Highway 178
P.O. Box 1662
Weldon, CA 93283
Phone/Fax: 760-378-

September 8, 2010

Sierra Nevada Conservancy
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205
Auburn, CA 95603

RE: Grant Application to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy

To whom it may concern:

On behalf of Audubon California, I am writing to support the Sierra Nevada Conservancy grant applications from the Sequoia Riverlands Trust for Flynn Ranch (Category 1) and Mebrane Ranch and Hershey Ranch (Category 2).

These projects are a top acquisition priority of the Southern Sierra Partnership (SSP), which is an alliance of Audubon California, the Sequoia Riverlands Trust, the Sierra Business Council and The Nature Conservancy. Successful conservation of this set of acquisitions is integral to achieving the climate-adapted conservation vision and regional conservation design developed by the SSP through our recent collaborative planning process which is focused on biodiversity and ecosystem services across 7 million acres of the southern Sierra Nevada and Tehachapi mountains.

The SSP vision and priority acquisition projects support Proposition 84's conservation goals of protecting and restoring California's rivers, lakes and streams, their watersheds and associated land, water, and other natural resources. Each acquisition project also directly supports the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's goal of protecting, conserving, and restoring the Region's physical, cultural, archaeological, historical, and living resources, and aiding in the preservation of working landscapes. The priority properties contribute to maintaining regional landscape integrity and connectivity, as well as conserving vital water resources and under-conserved biodiversity in the southern Sierra. Each also contributes to preserving California's working landscape by protecting vulnerable rangelands from threat of development and surface and ground water and supporting well-managed ranching.

By conserving significant sections of the southern Sierra's watersheds, the properties will help sustain water quality and supply essential for wildlife and for communities and agriculture in the southern San Joaquin Valley. Mebane Ranch captures important elevational gradients and its eventual easement acquisition will prevent the continued expansion of the City of Bakersfield into valuable blue oak habitat. Hershey Ranch also captures important blue oak and riparian habitat, as well as considerable water resources. The Flynn Ranch easement protects endangered grassland species and enables a longtime ranching family to continue ranching. Once protected, they will be managed for ecosystem resilience and become part of a network of properties in the southern Sierra where climate-adapted management will be tested.

In closing, this project represents a significant portion of the top six priority properties for the Southern Sierra Partnership. The Sierra Nevada Conservancy grants are vital to their conservation. Please join me in supporting the Sequoia Riverlands Trust and its partners in preserving this region of the southern Sierra Nevada Mountains.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Reed Tollefson".

Reed Tollefson
Sanctuary Manager